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How to get *the most*
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THIS MONTH:
The kitchen

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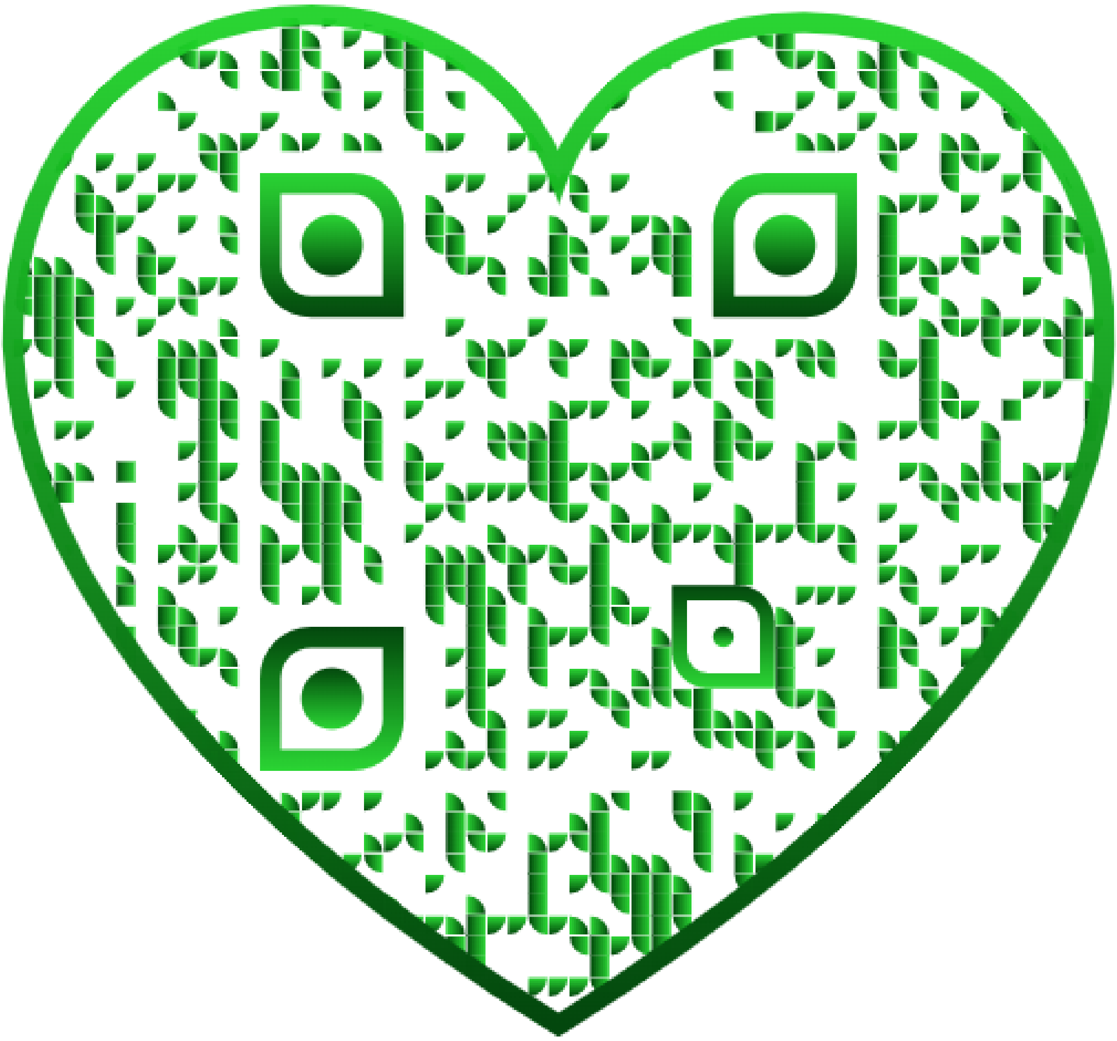
THE ART *of* EASY OUTDOOR LIVING *and* ENTERTAINING

PICK & MIX
Truly delicious recipes
for easy-to-assemble
GRAZING PLATES

HOME AMONG THE GUM TREES
Edwina Bartholomew's glorious country garden



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JANUARY CONTENTS

COVER STORIES

24 *Summer style* **The art of easy outdoor living and entertaining**
118 *$10K room renovation* **How to get the most from your budget – this month: the kitchen**
128 *Buyer's guide to* **outdoor furniture**
136 *Home among the gum trees* **Edwina Bartholomew's glorious country garden**
148 *Pick & mix* **Truly delicious recipes for easy-to-assemble grazing plates**

SERENE SCENE
PAGE 42
→

BEAUTIFUL STYLE

16 ***In the know*** What's hot in new design inspiration
18 ***Natural beauty*** Interior designer Charlotte Coote details the charm of flower rooms in her latest book
24 ***Open-air flair*** A guide to styling alfresco dining tables

BEAUTIFUL SHOPPING

28 ***Cocktail hour*** Chic bar carts to suit a range of styles
34 ***Favourite finds: Fresh start*** Prepare for the year ahead with these pretty and practical planners and diaries
36 ***Beauty: Colour pop!*** Tint it up with balms and serums

BEAUTIFUL HOMES

42 ***Island idyll*** A tropical touch hits the perfect style note in this Balinese abode, complete with relaxed vibes
56 ***Ocean breeze*** There are sea views as far as the eye can see around this Sunshine Coast holiday home
68 ***Worth the wait*** A knock down and rebuild took four years to complete but resulted in truly timeless style
84 ***Serene dream*** Simplicity and restraint lead to a white-on-white minimalist sensation in this summery home
96 ***Under the sun*** White rendered walls, sweeping arches and tactile travertine evoke sunny European vibes

BEAUTIFUL DESIGN

112 ***Emerald city*** Leigh Boswell of Highgate House shares the secret to her patterned and colourful coastal style
118 ***Penny wise*** Our must-read $10K room renovation series continues with expert advice on kitchen design
122 ***Create a zen den*** Prioritise your wellbeing in the New Year with designated spaces for health and happiness
128 ***Take it outside*** Embrace the summer sunshine with our picks for durable and stylish outdoor furniture

BEAUTIFUL GARDENS

136 ***Great escape*** TV journalist and *Sunrise* presenter Edwina Bartholomew shares her idyllic country oasis
144 ***The gardener's log*** Ashley James covers the basics of good garden design. This month: planning.

BEAUTIFUL FOOD

148 ***Pick & mix*** Make a grazing station with shareable dishes
158 ***Top 10: Precious drops*** Pop a bottle of our favourite fizz
160 ***It's party time*** Become the host with the most this year

BEAUTIFUL PLACES

168 ***Lost in Japan*** We've sorted your perfect travel itinerary
172 ***Chic travels*** Our picks of the best buys and getaways

REGULAR FEATURES

8 ***Staff*** Who we are, get in touch and our Privacy Notice
10 ***Connect*** What's new in the world of *Home Beautiful*
13 ***Ed's letter*** Editor-in-chief Elle Lovelock's latest faves
178 ***Next issue*** Sneak a peek inside *HB*'s February issue

BAR CODE
PAGE 28 →

FARE SHARE
PAGE 148 →

THE GOOD LIFE
PAGE 136

home beautiful

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VOLUME I

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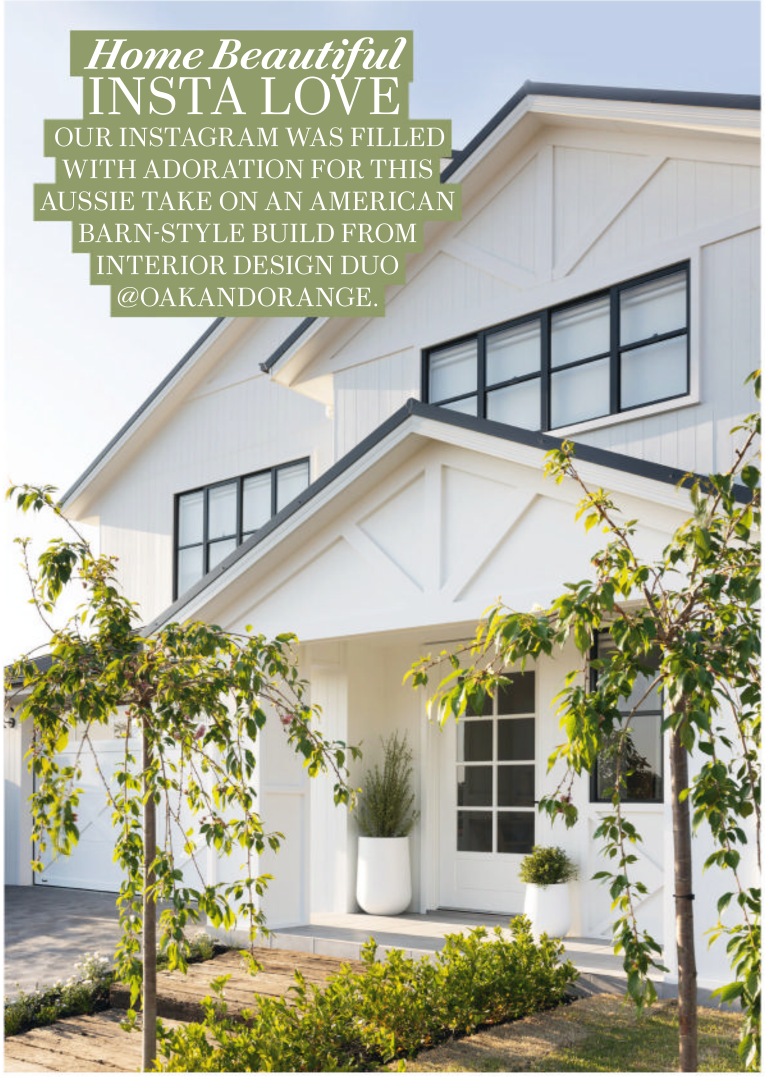


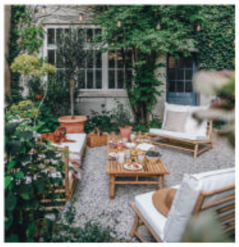
Home Beautiful INSTA LOVE

OUR INSTAGRAM WAS FILLED WITH ADORATION FOR THIS AUSSIE TAKE ON AN AMERICAN BARN-STYLE BUILD FROM INTERIOR DESIGN DUO @OAKANDORANGE.

BREATH OF FRESH AIR

TAKE YOUR STYLE OUTDOORS WITH THESE INSPIRING ACCOUNTS

@ALEXANDRA_NEA_HOME

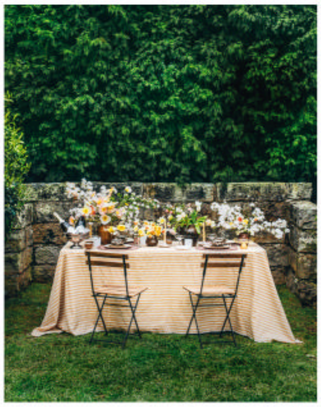


@_FOODSTORIES_

@LAUREN.SAYLOR

It's a breeze

It was a hard day at the office this month for photographer and stylist Louise Roche (@villastyling), who was tasked with capturing this stunning Sunshine Coast apartment for HB's January issue. As beautiful as the newly renovated abode is, it's hard to compete with that coastal view.



COVER LOOK

THIS ALFRESCO DINING TABLE IS DECORATED WITH BRIGHT FLORALS AND GROUNDING CERAMIC TABLEWARE IN DEEP TONES. A WEATHERED STONE WALL AND LUSH GREENERY COMPLETE THE TABLEAU.
PHOTOGRAPHY: *Abbie Mellé*
STYLING: *Kayla Gex*

PHOTOGRAPHY & STYLING (TOP LEFT & TOP RIGHT) **LOUISE ROCHE** WALLPAPER (IN BACKGROUND) **'MARBELLA' IN LIMESTONE, WALTER G**

MORE BEAUTIFUL

For a daily dose of home inspiration, shopping ideas, expert advice and recipes, join HB's social channels

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PHOTOGRAPHY MINDI COOKE

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ELLE'S TEXTILE OF THE MONTH
The inky hue in this Flores Pacific Blue linen from Walter G will provide a visual anchor in any scheme. It would look sensational on a large area such as a sofa.

EDITOR'S LETTER

I just love the summer holidays. The festivities of December may be finished and Christmas packed away for another year, but I still want to entertain – albeit in a more relaxed way. Long, lazy lunches that cascade into the evenings are the order of the day. We have an open-door policy at our place, so you never know when people will pop in. I find it's best to have a selection of snacks on hand that I can assemble on grazing plates. There are the usual suspects: cheese, olives, crackers and fresh fruit and veg, but I also like to prepare something a bit special, usually just one hero "picky-bits" dish such as the little stuffed peppers or arancini in our food story on page 147. It's so much easier when you only have to cook one thing and everything else is opening packets.

If you plan on hosting your own summer soiree, or maybe you'll be heading to dine at someone else's house, be sure to have a look at our round-up of the best products for hosts with the most from page 160. We've themed categories from the baking queen to the cocktail king, and filled the pages with party purchases big and small.

Another part of hosting at home is setting the scene. If you're looking for summer styling ideas, let the beautiful houses (from page 41) in this issue inspire your ultimate staycation. They take their design cues from all over the world: Bali, the Mediterranean and closer to home, Noosa. And all evoke that laidback vibe that makes you wish for an endless summer.

Elle Lovelock

ELLE LOVELOCK, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Get in touch with me on Instagram @ellelovelock

Beautiful buys **Here's what I'm coveting and buying this month**

Perfect for entertaining. Laney outdoor bar trolley in White, $699, Domayne.

The Culinary Co 12-piece 'Poppy' dinner set is a bargain at $65, from Spotlight.

Emerald Finger Lime gin would make a fine G&T. $85, Archie Rose.

So chic with a blazer. Ameria 'Palazzo' jeans in Mid Blue, $350, Reiss.

PHOTOGRAPHY (PORTRAIT) ALANA LANDSBERRY

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BEAUTIFUL STYLE

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EAT, PRAY, LOVE

Make dining alfresco extra luxe with Globe West's new outdoor furniture. Pair the 'Seville Tile' oval dining table in Burnt Sienna with the 'Cabana Link' dining armchairs in Chalk/White. Visit globewest.com.au to see the full collection.

ARTWORK 'ABSTRACT VISTA' GLOBE WEST

FRESH PICKS
PAGE 16 →

HERE'S THE SCOOP

Your favourite ice cream is set for a stylish makeover with the cool new 'Gelato Coupe' in Mint Amber Clear (below), $89, from Maison Balzac x Gelato Messina. Shop the release at ***maisonbalzac.com.***

TWO GOOD CO
CHANGE THE COURSE
ALÉMAIS

FINE PRINT

FASHION BRAND ALÉMAIS HAS JOINED TWO GOOD CO TO PRESENT THE 'COOK IN COLOUR' COLLECTION. IT FEATURES NEW PATTERNED APRONS AND NAPKINS (LEFT) AND LUXE GIFT SETS (ABOVE). HALF OF ALL PROFITS GO TO THE TWO GOOD FOUNDATION, WHICH EMPOWERS AND EMPLOYS VULNERABLE WOMEN IN CRISIS. SEE TWOGOOD.COM.AU.

What's hot

FRESH PICKS

Our round-up of the latest for elevated lounging and indulging

EDITED BY ALICE IERACE & REBECCA HOOTON

DOUBLE DIP

For fabulous outdoor furnishings, the 'Malibu to Manly' Coco Republic x Business & Pleasure Co collab has you covered. Shop sofas, bolsters and umbrellas (above) at cocorepublic.com.au.

WORTH THEIR SALT

Premium salt producer Olsson's has launched two new products. The Pinch Pot with bamboo spoon (below, left), $18, is crafted for seasoning in style. The Salt Keeper (below, right), $23.50, stores salt and fits the top of a cocktail glass for a perfect rim. Visit olssons.com.au to shop.

OLSSONS
OLSSON'S

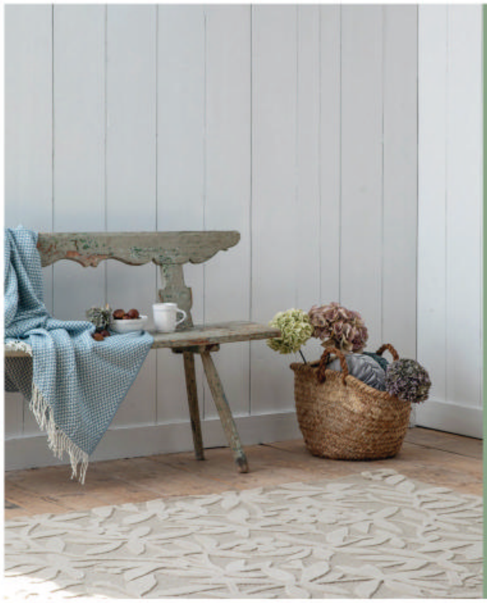
PICK OF THE SEASON

Marimekko's 'Anatomy of a Flower' range is the first drop of 2025 and it captures the brand's florals in dining pieces (above), glassware and cushions (below). Head to marimekko.com/au_en for inspiration.

KIP&CO Ken Done

STROKE OF GENIUS

Australian artist Ken Done has teamed up with Kip&Co to release the 'Beach Days' range. Shop napkins (above), tablecloths (right) and glassware (below) at kipandco.com.au, all in the artist's iconic designs.

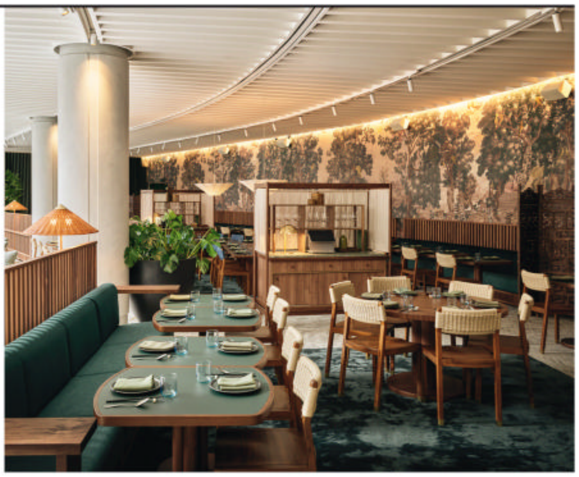


A NEW LEAF

British lifestyle brand Laura Ashley has a new range of designer rugs, including the 'Cleavers' rug in Natural (left), with an elegant leaf silhouette in soft, 100 per cent wool. Head to freedom.com.au or templeandwebster.com.au to see the range.

YES, CHEF

A new Vietnamese-French restaurant named Delta Rue has opened in Sydney's CBD as part of a recently launched precinct at Sofitel Sydney Wentworth. The venue is inspired by the streets of Hanoi, featuring a touch of luxe and a mouthwatering menu. To book, go to deltarue.sydney.



5 minutes with…

NEALE WHITAKER

What can we expect from your new kitchen and dining collection with Gro Urban Oasis? *Neale Whitaker (pictured, above): "Everything is designed to work perfectly together but also to combine effortlessly with what you already own. It's not a trend-driven range, it's timeless."*

What kitchen and dining trends are you noticing? *"We're seeing a return to kitchens with personality. In recent years, kitchens have become very streamlined and efficiency-driven, which has stripped them of their soul. It's good to see a sense of bonhomie returning."*

What are your predictions for popular kitchen features in 2025? *"I think we will see an emphasis on colour. Instead of hiding everything away we will be displaying our crockery, glassware and cookware."*

Any tips for staying cool, calm and collected while hosting? *"If you're the type that stresses easily, maybe avoid hosting very formal dinner parties. They're old-fashioned anyway. Keep the menu simple, the atmosphere relaxed and allow your guests to be part of the process."*

What's the key to being a good guest at someone's home? *"Arrive on time, leave on time and bring good conversation to the party. Be interesting and interested."*

Interiors expert and TV personality Neale Whitaker's debut with Gro Urban Oasis includes his table linen, 'Culinary' and 'Everyday' dining ranges. Shop the pieces at gro-urbanoasis.com.au.

PHOTOGRAPHY (ALÉMAIS X TWO GOOD CO) DEXTER KIM, FRANCES MOCNIK (DELTA RUE) STEVEN WOODBURN (NEALE WHITAKER) STEVE BROWN

Book extract

Natural beauty

Delight in the joy of spaces dedicated to the beauty of flowers and foliage – and the art of tailor-made storage – in Charlotte Coote's charming new book *The Flower Room*

STORY CHARLOTTE COOTE

CREATING A *flower room*

Traditionally, a flower room is a practical and charming space set aside in a large country house for cutting and storing flowers. A little slice of outdoorsy paradise, it would usually be filled with muddy boots and jackets, sturdy tables and shelves for storage, and buckets and jugs overflowing with blooms. Yet it is much more than that. It is part of the interior, but it sets the stage for the joys outdoors. An in-between space imbued with a certain magical charm, it often contains the fresh, sweet fragrances of the outside world. It showcases the bounty of nature, but it is not staged or designed to impress. The space is entirely personal. And the more stories it holds, the better.

Today, the concept of the flower room has undergone a transformation. It is being reinvented and redefined in spaces of all shapes and sizes. Whether you have a small pad in the city or a large home in the countryside, a flower room is within your reach. When I was creating my own flower room, I was influenced by the inspiring interpretations of designers like American designer Charlotte Moss; senior design director at Sibyl Colefax and John Fowler, Emma Burns; New York-based architect GP Schafer (one of the greats) and, of course, garden designer Charlie McCormick. I also love The Land Gardeners, Bridget Elworthy and Henrietta Courtauld, and their ideas on creating a cutting garden.

As a nature-inspired response to design, the primary purpose of a flower room is to create happiness. However, it should also provide suitable storage and be visually appealing. Function and form are equal. And it shouldn't matter how large or small the space (or the budget!). Even if you are renting the smallest apartment, these ideas could inspire your own vision of a flower room to blossom.

This page *At her Mount Macedon home, Marnanie, Charlotte's flower room (top & bottom right) is bursting with delights from the garden. "My flower room can look entirely different depending on the day, and serves many different purposes for my family," she says.* ***Opposite*** *Charlotte looks down over her garden's verdant bulb lawn and herbaceous border. "The bulbs bloom for months: first come the snowdrops, then crocuses, daffodils, hyacinths, primroses, bluebells, tulips and – my absolute favourite – lilies of the valley. It is a riot of colours and scents and provides endless options for our vases," shares Charlotte.* **>**

PHOTOGRAPHY ARMELLE HABIB

“THERE IS SOMETHING VERY PLEASING ABOUT HAVING THE PERFECT SPACE FOR EVERY BOOT, VASE AND COAT”

CHARLOTTE

HOW TO MAKE *a flower room*

Step 1: Make a plan

Failing to plan is planning to fail! Make a list of all the wonderful and not-so-wonderful objects you want to put in your flower room. Include everything from dog food to laundry powder, plastic watering cans to placemats.

Step 2: Repurpose existing pieces

If you have interesting lighting, artwork or furniture (for example, an antique dresser or island bench) that could find a new life in this room, add them to your list.

Step 3: Design & curate your space

Design a space for everything on your list. Measure your items and then create cupboards, shelves and drawers to hold them. Start with the biggest items – your washing machine, fridge or dresser – and work around them. Function and practicality are just as important as form. Some essential items, like your vacuum cleaner and mop, will probably need to be stored away so they don’t clash with your perfectly selected colour palette but you can give away anything you no longer use or that doesn’t bring you joy. Make sure to cull them immediately, otherwise you may find that they are still hanging around a year later.

This page *“Foraging in my garden is one of my favourite pastimes,” says Charlotte (pictured, top left). “I love cutting large branches of beech or masses of hydrangea to style in my home. My favourite branches to use inside are beech in spring [bottom left] and maple in autumn.” Charlotte’s tip is to arrange three large branches for drama and impact. “It’s all about the vase height – aim to have the greenery well above the top of the vase. Keep the water topped up – try to always have the vase four-fifths full. The branches will last for up to a month if you keep the water fresh.”* ***Opposite*** *Landscape designer Paul Bangay’s flower room at Stonefields has a place for everything. “Storage and functionality should be key considerations in a flower room,” says Charlotte.* **>**

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE, TOP & OPPOSITE) **ARMELLE HABIB** (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM) **ABBIE MELLÉ** ARTWORKS (BOTTOM, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT) PUMPKIN PRINT **OAK LANE & CO, UNKNOWN ARTIST** SIGNED PHOTOGRAPH OF QUEEN ELIZABETH **UNKNOWN ARTIST** FOLLOWING TWO ARTWORKS **UNKNOWN ARTISTS** PORTRAIT OF GEORGIA WEIR **ROBERT DOBLE** ORANGE **ARTWORK ROBERT DOBLE**

ROOMS FOR BLOOMS

This is an edited extract from 'The Flower Room' by Charlotte Coote, published by Thames & Hudson Australia, $59.99. For more botanical-inspired interiors ideas from one of Australia's most sought-after interior designers, pick up a copy of 'The Flower Room' and discover how to bring the colours, patterns and textures of nature into your home.

The Flower Room
TIMELESS INTERIORS INSPIRED BY NATURE
Thames & Hudson
CHARLOTTE COOTE

"NO GREATER CONFIDENCE CAN BE OFFERED THAN THE TIMELESSNESS AND ELEGANCE OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD"

CHARLOTTE

WORKING WITH *flowers & greenery*

As a designer, working with flowers and greenery is not dissimilar to the way that chefs work with ingredients. To achieve the best results, they choose ingredients that are seasonal and, preferably, local. If you have the luxury of access to a garden (or a friend's garden), whether it's a small yard, a large garden or rural block, that's great. If not, you can still use these ideas with purchased flowers and greenery.

The beauty of the passing seasons constantly inspires me with new ways to embellish my interiors. When we first moved to [our home] Marnanie, I no longer needed to buy flowers from a market or shop. They can be higher maintenance and you may have to boil the stems to make them look good, but I love using what's available in my own backyard. It's also great for the environment, because it doesn't involve shipping blooms from the other side of the world. And it's much kinder on your wallet – another big win.

At Marnanie, we're incredibly spoiled in spring, with its abundance of vibrant colour. Summer brings the blooming of the herbaceous border, which provides a variegated carpet of green, white and purple foliage. A different colour palette emerges in autumn – beautiful, earthy colours and deeper shades of red, burgundy and orange signal a last farewell to summer. Even in the middle of winter, I can bring snowdrops and hellebores inside – winter blooms are harder to get and therefore more precious.

Once you've assembled your blooms and greenery, it's time to pick the right vase. I love collecting large-scale vases – they suit my house. Experience has taught me they can be hard to find online or in shops, so I keep an eye out for them at auctions and snap them up straightaway.

When I'm working with flowers and greenery, I like tapping into the existing colours within a room. If I'm working in a blue room, I use blooms in white, blue or even yellow, which can be wonderful. In my pink dining room [top right], flowers in clashing shades of pinks and bold reds really enhance the space.

This page *In her own home (top & bottom right), Charlotte keeps things simple. "Arrange one thing from the garden en masse in a vase," she says.* **Opposite** *Paul Bangay's potting shed at Stonefields can also function as a flower room.* HB

PHOTOGRAPHY (TOP RIGHT) **ABBIE MELLÉ** (BOTTOM RIGHT & OPPOSITE) **ARMELLE HABIB**

Outdoor styling

OPEN-AIR FLAIR

There's something alluring about dining alfresco, seated at a table beautifully set for sharing and celebrating

WORDS **VICTORIA KINGSBURY** | STYLING **KAYLA GEX** | PHOTOGRAPHY **ABBIE MELLÉ**

SETTING THE SCENE

The key to outdoor table styling is to keep it relaxed and 'undone', with casual linen or cotton table cloths and rustic cutlery and tableware. It doesn't all need to match, but looks great when items are in similar tones. Flowers are a must, whether they're bought or freshly picked from the garden, as they will take your table setting from functional to fabulous in an instant.

THE LITTLE THINGS

Ensure guests are looked after by offering throws for cool summer nights or protecting shoulders from the sun, and make sure your table is shaded, either under a tree or parasol.

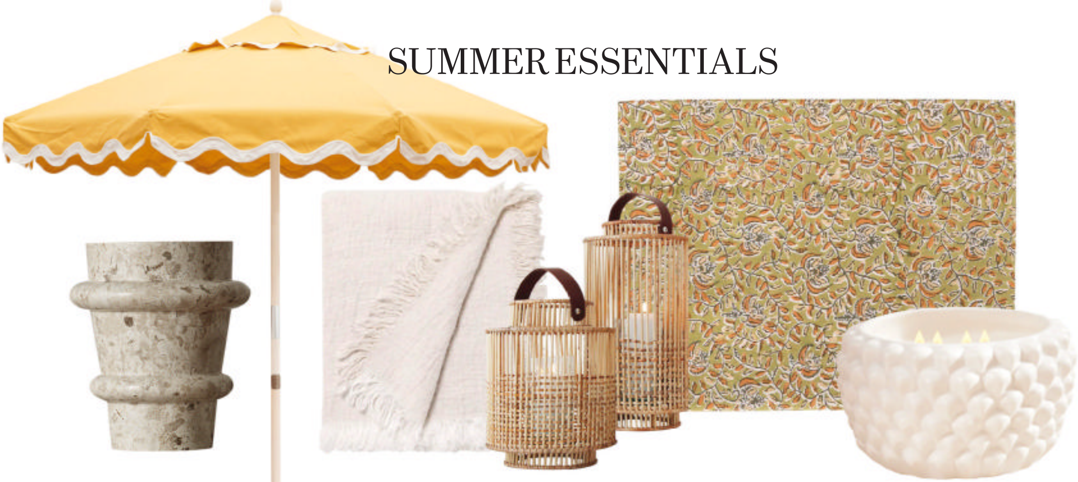
BUGS BE GONE

Pesky insects can't be avoided in the great outdoors, so be prepared with repellent on hand and light citronella candles to keep mozzies at bay. Provide mesh food covers as well, so your lovingly prepared feast isn't swarmed by flies.

LIGHT IT UP

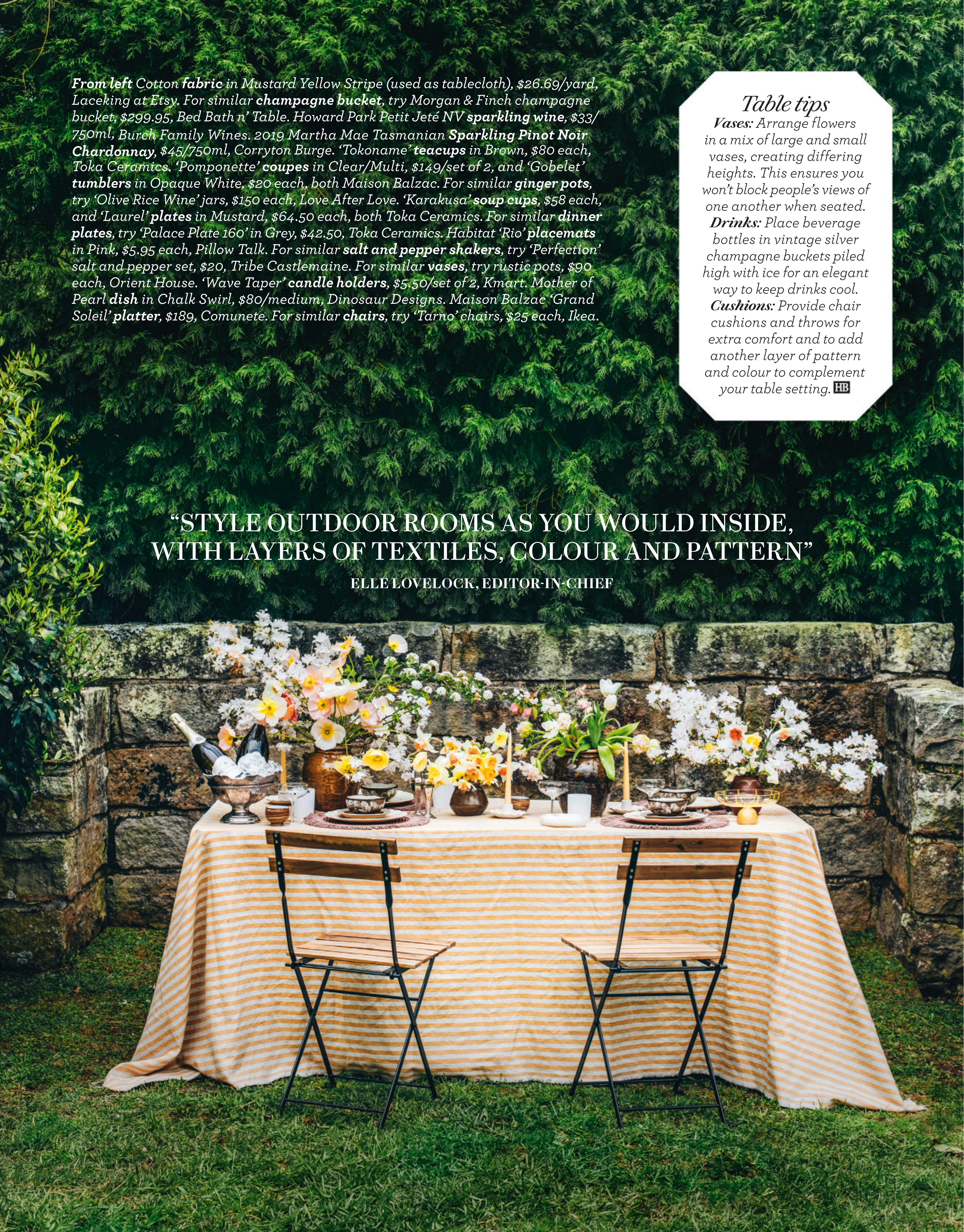
Make your table glow once the sun goes down with ambient outdoor lighting, such as festoon lights, lanterns hung from trees, or portable LED lamps. Tapered candles in vintage candlesticks arranged along the length of your table will create romance, and if it's a windy night, there are very realistic flameless candles available these days.

SUMMER ESSENTIALS



From left *'Wilma'* ***vase****, $249, McMullin. Business & Pleasure Co 'Rivie Market' 2.1m* ***umbrella*** *in Mimosa, $999, Temple & Webster. 'Ava'* ***throw*** *in Nougat, $310/210cm x 150cm, L&M Home. 'Le Portiv'* ***lanterns*** *in Natural Rattan, $399.98/set of 2, Living By Design. 'Ubud Cactus'* ***tablecloth****, $150/280cm x 150cm, Walter G. Mandarin & Neroli* ***candle****, $119/1kg, Circa.*

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE, IN BACKGROUND) **ADOBE STOCK**



From left Cotton **fabric** in Mustard Yellow Stripe (used as tablecloth), $26.69/yard, Laceking at Etsy. For similar **champagne bucket**, try Morgan & Finch champagne bucket, $299.95, Bed Bath n' Table. Howard Park Petit Jeté NV **sparkling wine**, $33/750ml, Burch Family Wines. 2019 Martha Mae Tasmanian **Sparkling Pinot Noir Chardonnay**, $45/750ml, Corryton Burge. 'Tokoname' **teacups** in Brown, $80 each, Toka Ceramics. 'Pomponette' **coupes** in Clear/Multi, $149/set of 2, and 'Gobelet' **tumblers** in Opaque White, $20 each, both Maison Balzac. For similar **ginger pots**, try 'Olive Rice Wine' jars, $150 each, Love After Love. 'Karakusa' **soup cups**, $58 each, and 'Laurel' **plates** in Mustard, $64.50 each, both Toka Ceramics. For similar **dinner plates**, try 'Palace Plate 160' in Grey, $42.50, Toka Ceramics. Habitat 'Rio' **placemats** in Pink, $5.95 each, Pillow Talk. For similar **salt and pepper shakers**, try 'Perfection' salt and pepper set, $20, Tribe Castlemaine. For similar **vases**, try rustic pots, $90 each, Orient House. 'Wave Taper' **candle holders**, $5.50/set of 2, Kmart. Mother of Pearl **dish** in Chalk Swirl, $80/medium, Dinosaur Designs. Maison Balzac 'Grand Soleil' **platter**, $189, Comunete. For similar **chairs**, try 'Tarno' chairs, $25 each, Ikea.

Table tips

Vases: *Arrange flowers in a mix of large and small vases, creating differing heights. This ensures you won't block people's views of one another when seated.*

Drinks: *Place beverage bottles in vintage silver champagne buckets piled high with ice for an elegant way to keep drinks cool.*

Cushions: *Provide chair cushions and throws for extra comfort and to add another layer of pattern and colour to complement your table setting.* HB

> "STYLE OUTDOOR ROOMS AS YOU WOULD INSIDE, WITH LAYERS OF TEXTILES, COLOUR AND PATTERN"
>
> ELLE LOVELOCK, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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BEAUTIFUL SHOPPING

DECORATING IDEAS AND STYLISH BUYS FOR YOUR HOME

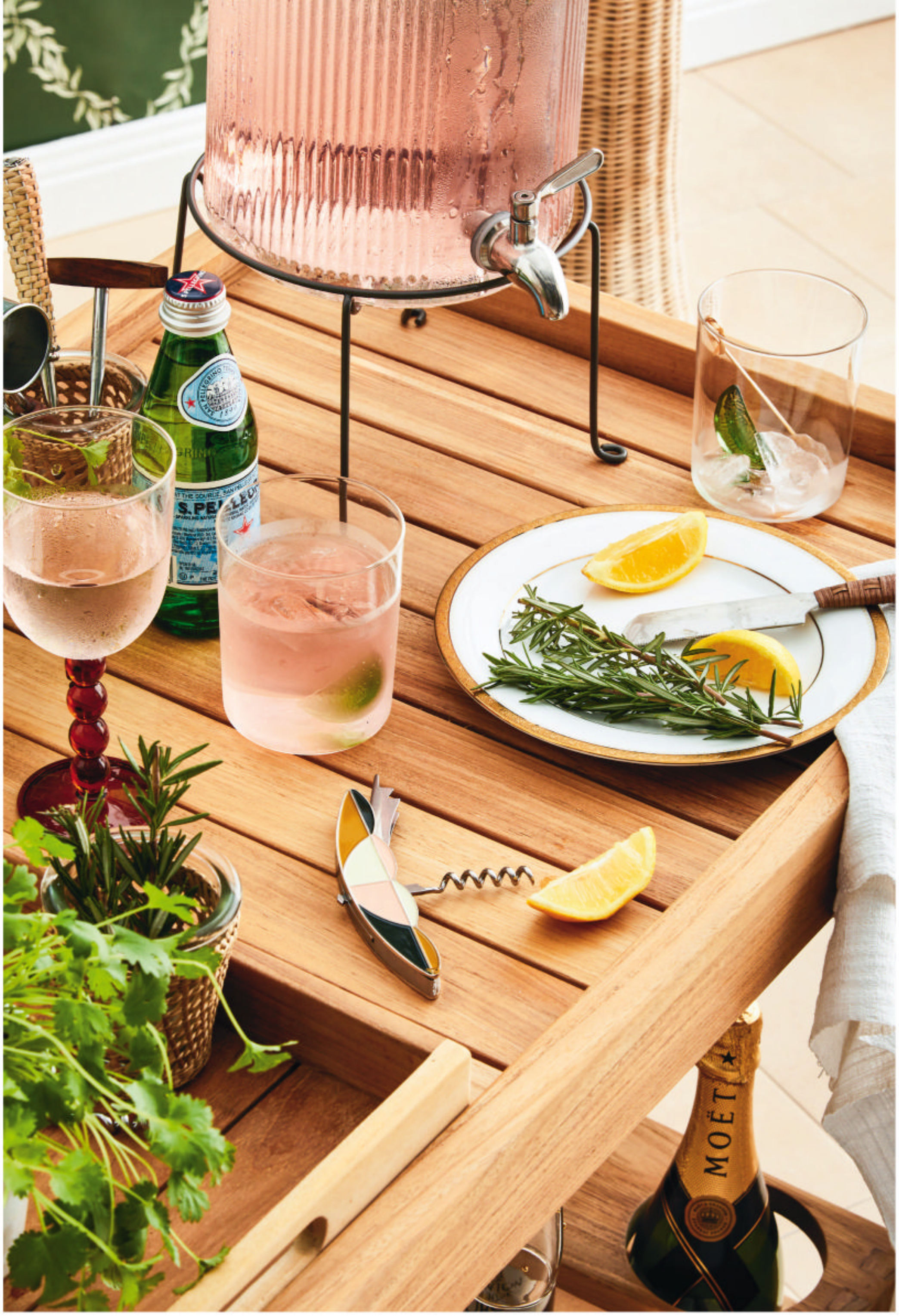
PHOTOGRAPHY KRISTINA SOLJO

COCKTAIL HOUR
PAGE 28

COCKTAIL HOUR

As daylight extends into the evening, there's plenty of time for mixing drinks and enjoying nibbles

STYLING LUCY GOUGH | PHOTOGRAPHY KRISTINA ŠOLJO



__This page, clockwise from top__ 'Vardagen' 5L __drinks dispenser jar__, $25, Ikea. 'Gin and Tonic' __glasses__ with lime, $99/set of 2, Maison Balzac. Noritake 'Charlotta' __dinner set__, $449/12-piece set, Temple & Webster. For similar __knife__, try rattan and gold cheese set, $45, Nest. '70s Panel Cinque' __bottle opener__, $39, Business & Pleasure Co. 'Volute' __wine glasses__, $99/set of 2, Maison Balzac. For similar rattan __jars__, try cane drinkware glasses, $24, Pottery Barn. __In rattan jars__ Triangle rattan __bottle opener__, $28, Lived in Coogee. For similar __corkscrew__, try walnut corkscrew, $40.71, Kokosnuss Eisen at Etsy. Sanpellegrino 250ml __mineral water__, $16/set of 6, Woolworths. __Opposite page, from left__ 'Rio' outdoor __bar cart__ with tray, glass racks and bottle holders, $899, Castlery. __On top shelf of bar cart__ Vintage __tea towel__, $45, The Powder Works. For similar white __pots__, try tin pots, $4.24 each, Koch & Co. 'The __Placemat__' in Rivie Mimosa, $119/set of 4, Business & Pleasure Co. 'Confetti Celebration' __flutes__, $149/set of 4, Pottery Barn. __On bottom shelf of bar cart__ Vintage __ice bucket__, $150.84, Chuckle Patch Vintage at Etsy. Mini __bucket__ (with herbs), $3, The Base Warehouse. For similar __bowl__ (with lemons), try irregular decor tray, $7, Kmart. Florabelle Living 'Belmont' 80cm __bar table__, $1149, Living Styles. __On table__ Wooden __coasters__, $19.99/set of 4, H&M. 'Faro' __napkin__ in Sky, $70/set of 4, L&M Home. Robert Gordon x MoVida 1.6L sangria __jug__ in Mauve, $89.95, Myer. Gold-rimmed __tumbler__, $14.99, H&M. Florabelle Living 'Belle' __bar stool__ in Natural, $427.50, House of Isabella. 'Leafy Lattice' __wallpaper__ in Dark Green, from $279.95/240cm x 120cm, Olive et Oriel. For similar __floor tiles__, try Tierre Cotto Creama textured tiles, $47.95/sqm, Beaumont Tiles. Florabelle Living __faux Areca palm__ (in foreground), $919/2m, Flora Designs. All other items, as before. **>**

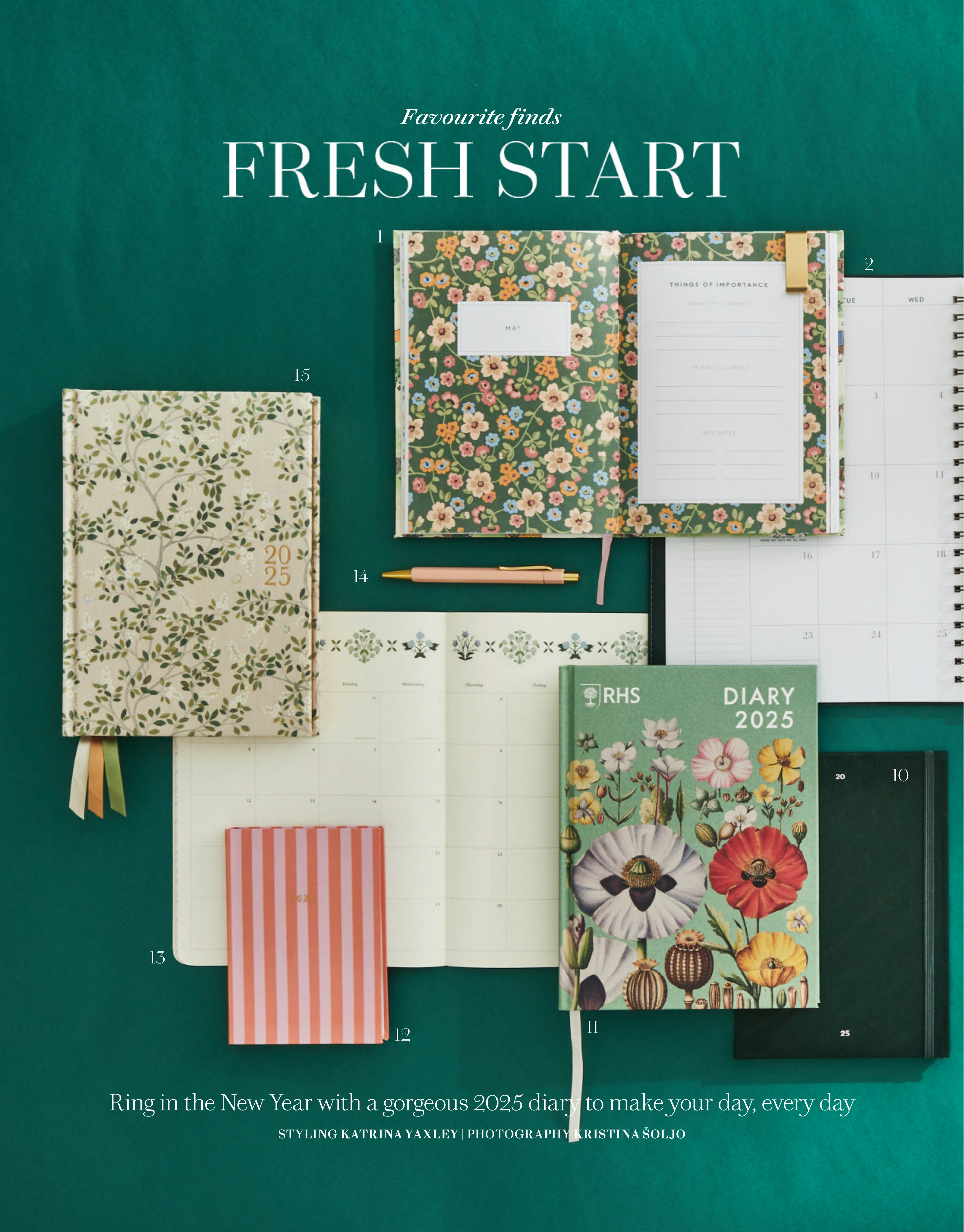
STYLING ASSISTANTS **DEBBIE COHEN, NONCI NYONI, IMOGENE WALSH**

This page, clockwise from top *'French Cafe' travel* ***cup****, $20, In The Roundhouse. Cutipol 'Goa'* ***cutlery*** *in Celadon, $770/24-piece set, Peter's of Kensington, and in White, $579/24-piece set, Francalia. Gold-rimmed* ***plate*** *in Striped/Green, $14.99, black and gold-rimmed* ***plate****, $14.99, and white* ***napkins****, $24.99/set of 2, all H&M.* ***Opposite, from left*** *'Rivarno'* ***daybed****, $3000, Merci Maison. 'Hugo'* ***bar cart****, $749, Pottery Barn.* ***On top shelf of bar cart*** *'Rhode Wiggle'* ***mugs****, $25 each, West Elm. Price & Kensington 6-cup* ***teapot****, $49.95, The Berry Tea Shop. For similar* ***cake stand****, try Maxwell & Williams 'Basics Diamonds' 3-tier cake stand, $39.95, Myer.* ***Apron*** *in Dark Grey Stripe, $24.99, H&M.* ***On middle shelf of bar cart*** *Robert Gordon 'Platform'* ***plates****, $199/8-piece set, Living By Design. Maxwell & Williams 'Basics' coupe demi* ***cup and saucer****, $5.95, Harris Scarfe. The Juice Lab 'Focus Brain Power'* ***juice****, $3.50/60ml, Woolworths. Jiva 'Juice Story Daily Greens'* ***juice****, $5.59/300ml, Wholefoods House.* ***On bottom shelf of bar cart*** *'Alba' tapered* ***pot****, $44.95, French Knot. Duralex 'Picardie'* ***tumblers****, $17.95/set of 6, Victoria's Basement. 'Chinoiserie Mural'* ***wallpaper*** *in Green, from $66/sqm, Silk Interiors Wallpaper. For similar* ***floor tiles****, try 'Maximo' Black matte tiles and White matte tiles, both $45.95/sqm, Beaumont Tiles.* ***Flowers****, White House Flowers. All other items, as before.* **>**

This page, clockwise from top *'Victoria'* ***lamp*** *in Brass/Cotton Shade, $758, Neoz. 'Bleeker'* ***ice bucket*** *with tongs in Antique Gold, $109, Pottery Barn. Velvet bow* ***napkin ring*** *(on champagne), $19.99/set of 4, H&M. 'Bleeker'* ***bar tray*** *in Antique Gold, $129, Pottery Barn. 'Bees'* ***teaspoon****, $12, Bonnie & Neil. 'High Performance'* ***champagne glasses****, $220 each, Riedel. 'Soldrankt'* ***champagne bowl*** *(with oranges), $40, Ikea. 'Veloce'* ***champagne wine glass****, $270/set of 6, Riedel. Vintage* ***tea towel****, $45, The Powder Works.* ***Opposite, from left*** *'Oberon Crescent'* ***buffet*** *in Matt Ocean Marble/Smoked Ash, $5600, Globe West. 'Beckett'* ***bar cart*** *in Brass, $1610, Williams Sonoma.* ***On middle shelf of bar cart*** *Green* ***serving plate****, $24.99, H&M. 'Bleeker' hanging* ***bar tools*** *in Gold, $109/set, Pottery Barn.* ***On bottom shelf of bar cart*** *'Noblesse'* ***pitcher****, $150, Nachtmann. 15th Century celadon* ***bowl****, $320, The Powder Works. Aerin 'Laban Hanging Shade'* ***pendant*** *in Brass, $2450, Bloomingdales Lighting. 'Bodenham' mural* ***wallpaper*** *in Spring Sage, from $85/sqm, Graham & Brown. For similar* ***flooring****, try 'Genero Glades' vinyl flooring in Acer Oak, $27/sqm (product only), Choices Flooring. All other items, as before.*

Favourite finds

FRESH START


1
2
15
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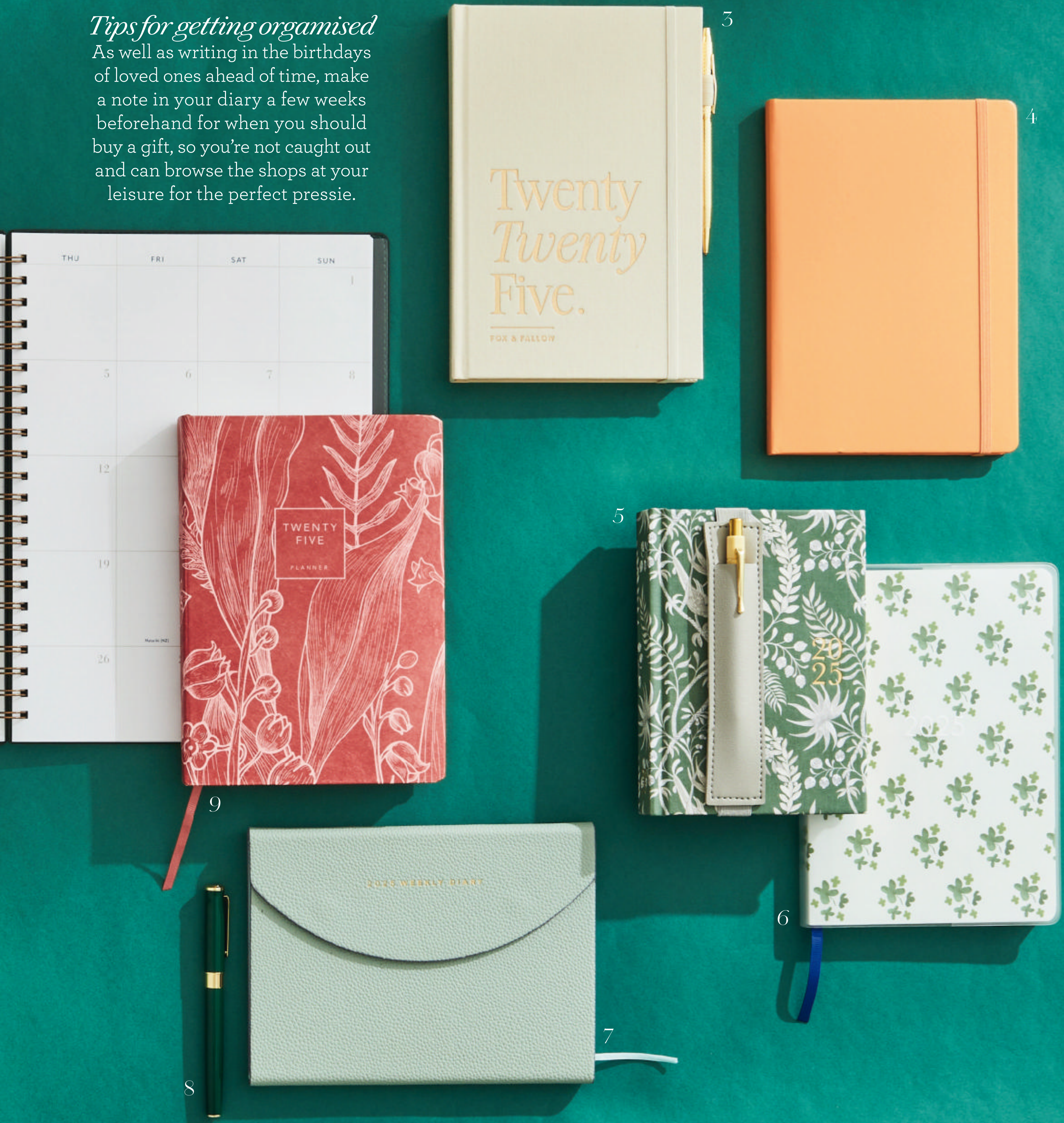
12
11
MAY
THINGS OF IMPORTANCE
20
25
RHS
DIARY
2025

Ring in the New Year with a gorgeous 2025 diary to make your day, every day

STYLING **KATRINA YAXLEY** | PHOTOGRAPHY **KRISTINA ŠOLJO**

Tips for getting organised

As well as writing in the birthdays of loved ones ahead of time, make a note in your diary a few weeks beforehand for when you should buy a gift, so you're not caught out and can browse the shops at your leisure for the perfect pressie.

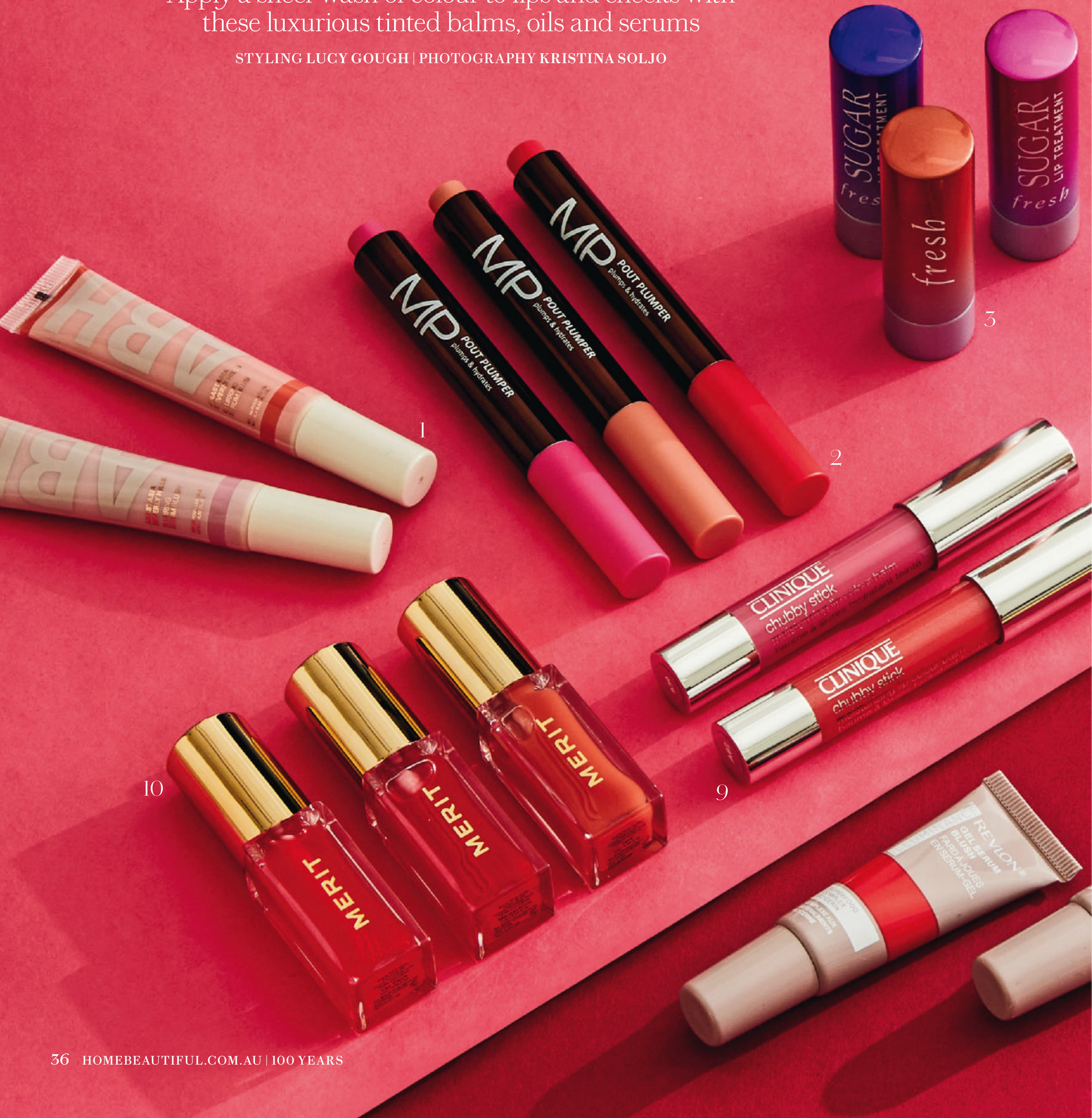


1. Cath Kidston 'Dogs in the Park' ***diary****, $32.99, Just Calendars. 2. 'Signature' A4* ***diary****, $32.99, Officeworks. 3. A5* ***planner*** *in Creme, $47.95, Fox & Fallow. Basket weave* ***pen****, $18.95, Bespoke Letterpress. 4. Leuchtturm A5* ***planner and notebook*** *in Apricot, $54.95, Kinokuniya. 5.* ***Planner*** *in Jardin Tropical, $49.95, and elastic* ***pen holder****, $16.95, both Bespoke Letterpress. 6. 'Wrap' A5* ***diary*** *in Clover, $35.99, Kikki K. 7. Cumberland 'Miranda Fashion' A5* ***diary*** *in Mint, $22.95, Kogan. 8. Executive* ***pen****, $36.95, Bespoke Letterpress. 9. Collins 'Tara' A5* ***diary****, $43.99, Dick Smith. 10. 'Agenda' A5* ***diary****, $49.99, Milligram. 11. RHS* ***diary****, $29.99, Dymocks. 12. 'Kaleido' A6* ***diary*** *in Candy Stripe, $21.50, Goose. 13. Rifle Paper Co monthly* ***planner*** *in Estee, $39.99, Milligram. 14.* ***Pen****, $16.95/set of 3 colours, Bespoke Letterpress. 15.* ***Planner*** *in White Blossoms, $59.95, Bespoke Letterpress.*

COLOUR POP!

Apply a sheer wash of colour to lips and cheeks with these luxurious tinted balms, oils and serums

STYLING LUCY GOUGH | PHOTOGRAPHY KRISTINA SOLJO



OFF DUTY
LIQUID HIGHLIGHT
MECCA MAX
OFF DUTY
LIQUID BLUSH
MECCA MAX
OFF DUTY
LIQUID HIGHLIGHTER
MECCA MAX
4
5
7
6
ILIA
8
REVLON
GEL SERUM
BLUSH

> *"These pretty products are perfect for a barely-there make-up look in summer"*
>
> **KATRINA YAXLEY, CREATIVE DIRECTOR**

1. Blurring Serum Blushes in Baby Pink and Peach, $53 each, Anastasia Beverly Hills. 2. MP Cosmetics Pout Plumpers in Pink Flush, Nude Peach and Watermelon, $16 each, Priceline. 3. Fresh Sugar Lip Treatments in Aurora Red, Beach Peach and Sunset Rose, $39 each, Sephora. 4. Off Duty Liquid Highlighters in Bronze and Champagne, $24 each, and Off Duty Liquid Blush in Peachy, $24, all Mecca Max. 5. Lip Oil Balms in Pitaya and Lychee, $48 each, Clarins. 6. Ilia cheek, eye and lip colour Multi-Sticks in At Last and A Fine Romance, $60 each, Mecca. 7. Just Joyous Subtle Shine Lipsticks in Valerie, Holly and Maria, $49 each, Trinny London. 8. Revlon Illuminance Gel Serum Blushes in Beaming Coral and Striking Rose, $27.95 each, Chemist Warehouse. 9. Lip colour Chubby Sticks in Whoppin‘ Watermelon and Mighty Mimosa, $48 each, Clinique. 10. Shade Slick Tinted Lip Oils in Jeté , Maraschino and Les Deux, $38 each, Merit.

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BEAUTIFUL HOMES

THE STORIES, STYLE AND LOVE THAT MAKE A HOME BEAUTIFUL

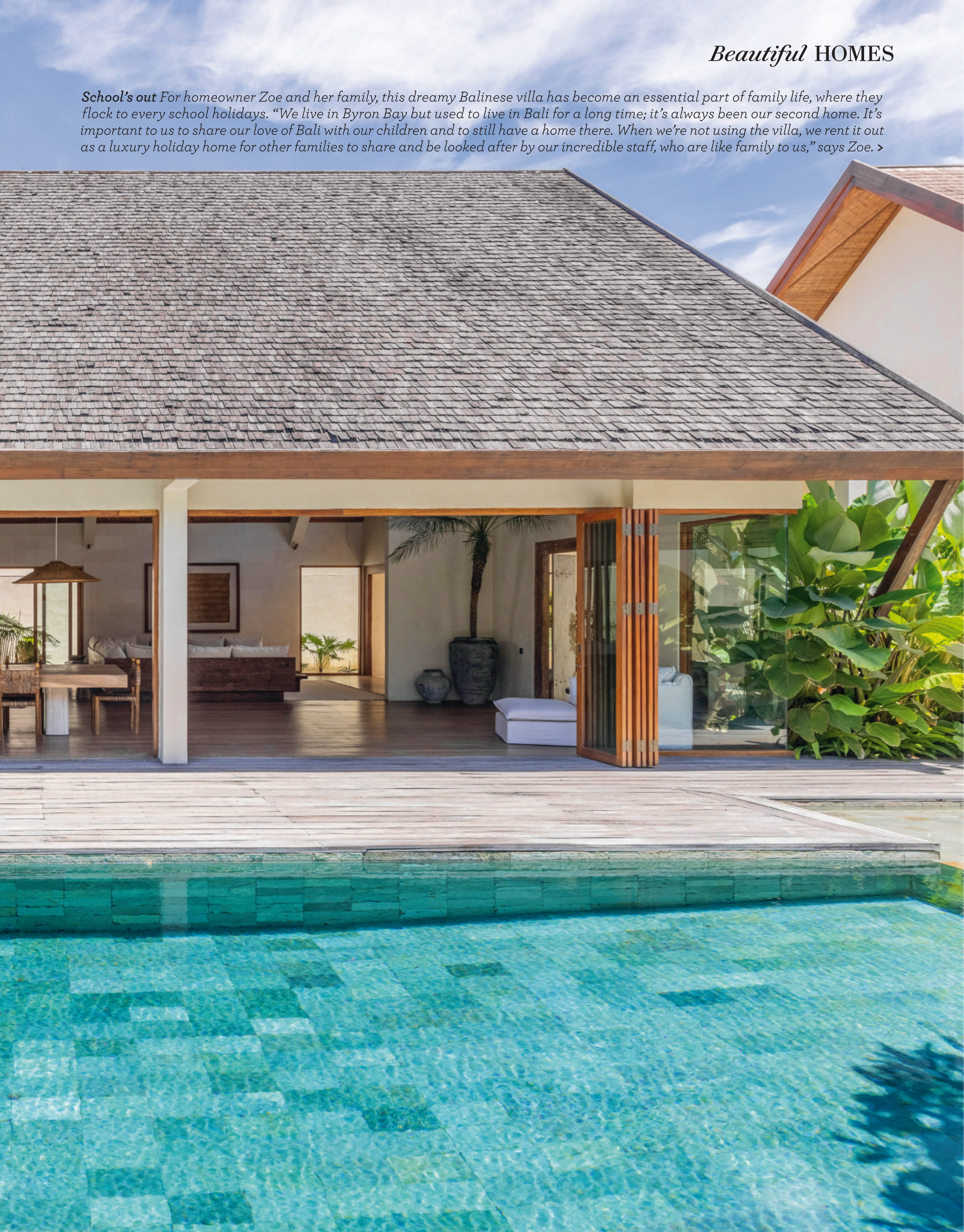
PHOTOGRAPHY SHEILA MAN/LIVING INSIDE

ISLAND IDYLL
PAGE 42

Island idyll

A heavenly hideaway in Bali makes for a relaxing tropical escape for Zoe, her family and visiting guests

STORY & PHOTOGRAPHY SHEILA MANN/LIVING INSIDE



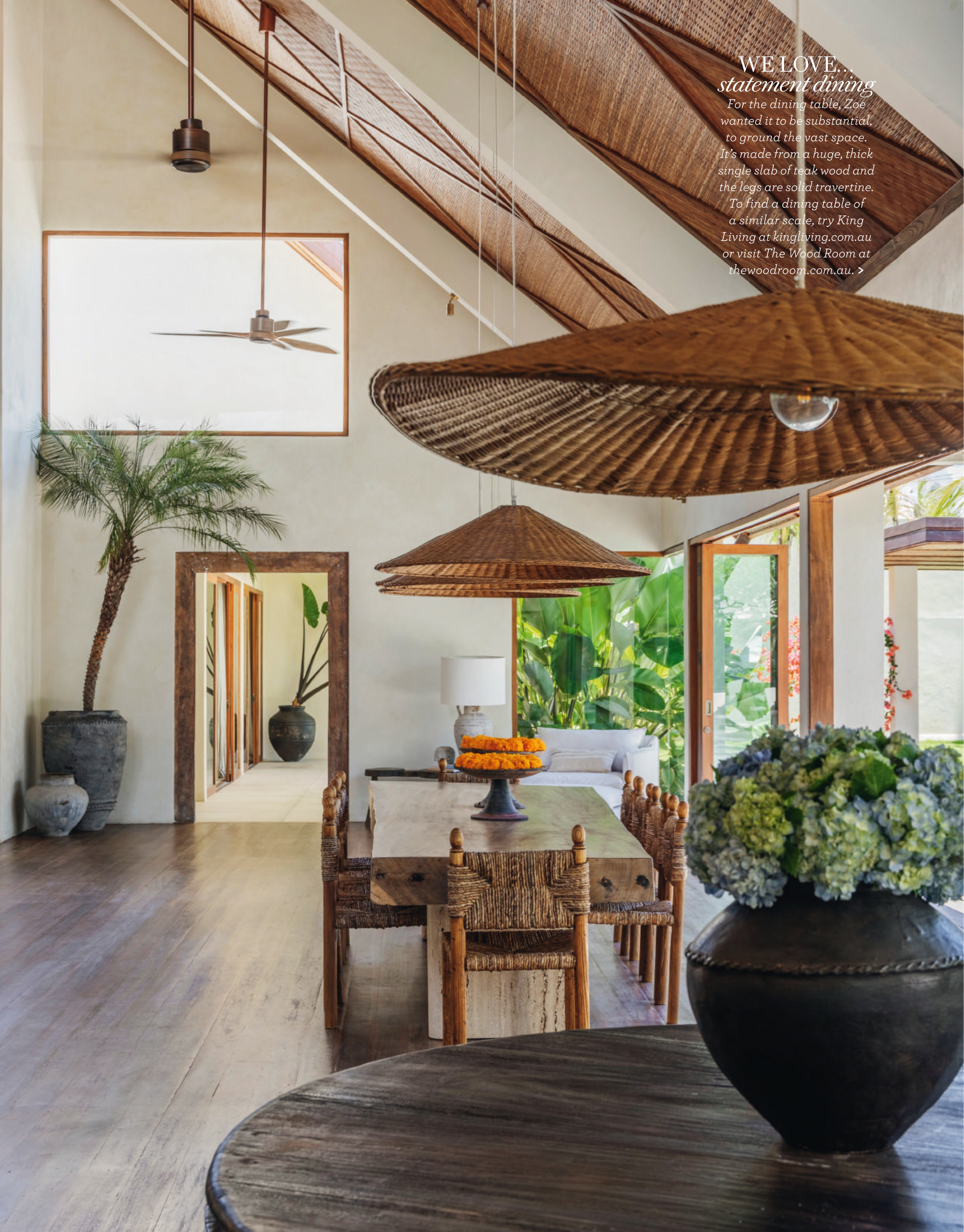
School's out *For homeowner Zoe and her family, this dreamy Balinese villa has become an essential part of family life, where they flock to every school holidays. "We live in Byron Bay but used to live in Bali for a long time; it's always been our second home. It's important to us to share our love of Bali with our children and to still have a home there. When we're not using the villa, we rent it out as a luxury holiday home for other families to share and be looked after by our incredible staff, who are like family to us," says Zoe.* **>**

Walking into Villa Mizi, the first thing its guests notice is the scale of the home, but it's far from intimidating. The 1600-square metre villa feels effortlessly spectacular, thanks to the understated use of materials and the sense of simplicity achieved by its owners. Homeowner and serial renovator Zoe, who founded Australian fashion label Mister Zimi, has meticulously planned and executed the renovation of this home to absolute perfection.

Zoe and her husband Jimi have been visiting Bali for 15 years and the couple have owned a few houses on the tropical island before. "We go there to relax, to connect as a family and enjoy the colourful Bali culture. It's such a huge inspiration for me personally with my role as creative director," explains Zoe. "We moved back to Australia in 2014, but have continued to keep a base there for the last 10 years; however, this is the forever Bali home for sure."

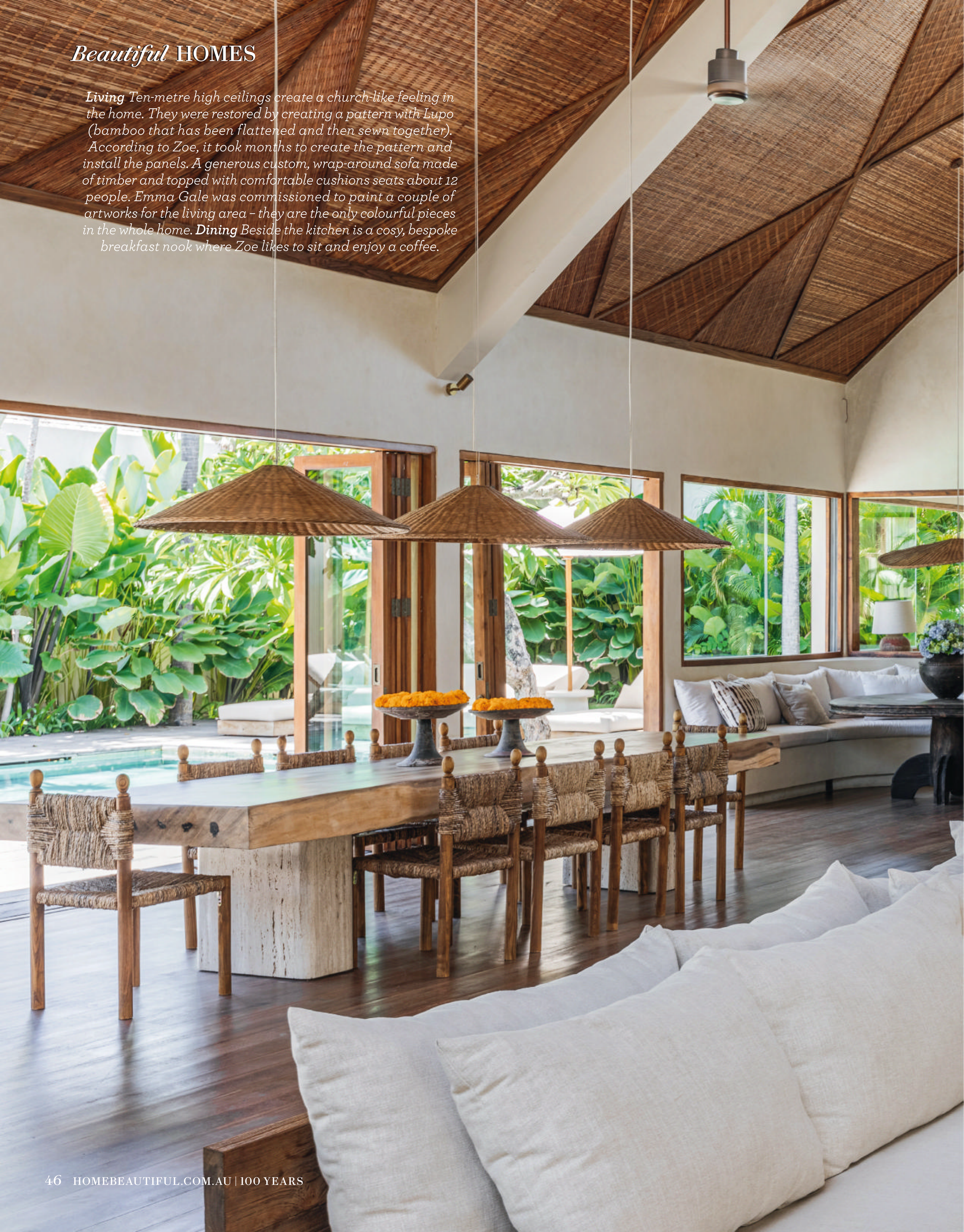
With four kids, Zoe wanted the villa to be big enough for their family, as well as hosting other families, too. When the couple first bought the long lease for the property in 2022 there were three separate buildings on the site, so they found a clever way to connect them with a small indoor garden. They also

Living & dining *The wooden floors throughout were all restored and brought back to life. The villa's aesthetic is pared back, with lots of natural textures, interesting pieces and antiques that Zoe (pictured, this page) sourced from Indonesia and Africa. Zoe, Jimi and Francisca custom-designed much of the furniture, which was made by local craftspeople. For similar chairs and pendants (opposite), try Uniqwa Collections.*

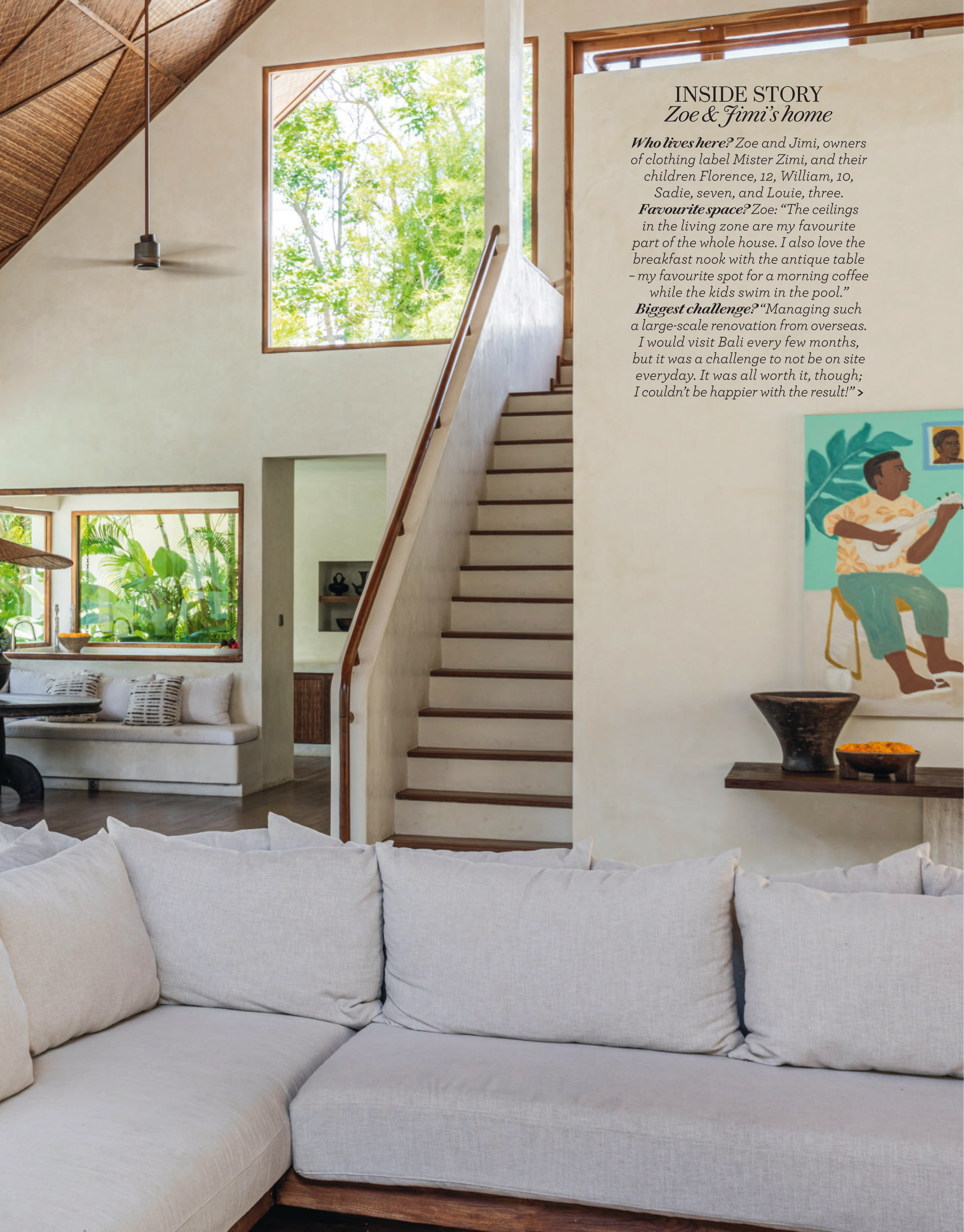


WE LOVE… *statement dining*

For the dining table, Zoe wanted it to be substantial, to ground the vast space. It's made from a huge, thick single slab of teak wood and the legs are solid travertine. To find a dining table of a similar scale, try King Living at kingliving.com.au or visit The Wood Room at thewoodroom.com.au. >

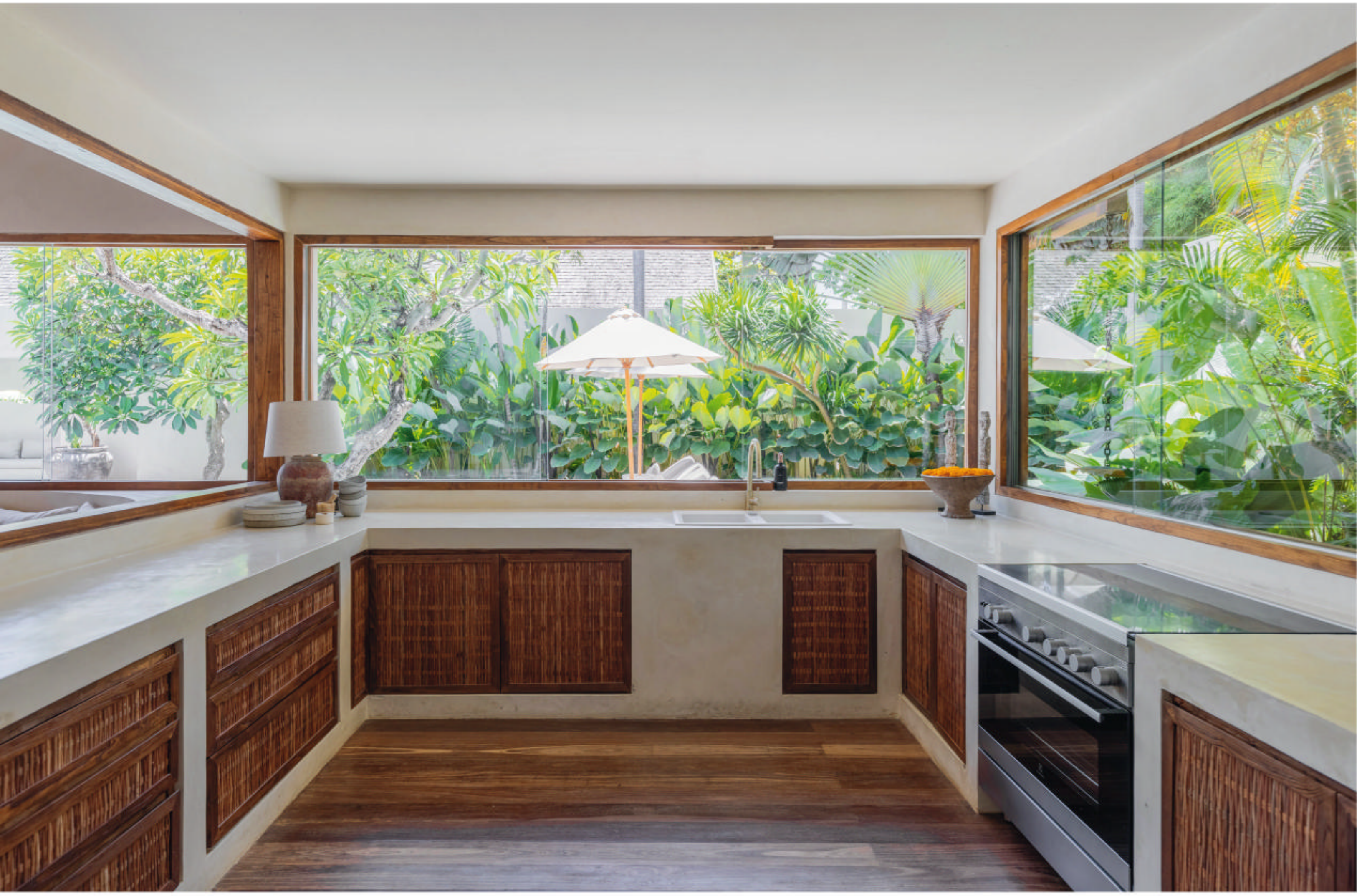


Living *Ten-metre high ceilings create a church-like feeling in the home. They were restored by creating a pattern with Lupo (bamboo that has been flattened and then sewn together). According to Zoe, it took months to create the pattern and install the panels. A generous custom, wrap-around sofa made of timber and topped with comfortable cushions seats about 12 people. Emma Gale was commissioned to paint a couple of artworks for the living area – they are the only colourful pieces in the whole home.* ***Dining*** *Beside the kitchen is a cosy, bespoke breakfast nook where Zoe likes to sit and enjoy a coffee.*



INSIDE STORY
Zoe & Jimi's home

Who lives here? *Zoe and Jimi, owners of clothing label Mister Zimi, and their children Florence, 12, William, 10, Sadie, seven, and Louie, three.* ***Favourite space?*** *Zoe: "The ceilings in the living zone are my favourite part of the whole house. I also love the breakfast nook with the antique table – my favourite spot for a morning coffee while the kids swim in the pool."* ***Biggest challenge?*** *"Managing such a large-scale renovation from overseas. I would visit Bali every few months, but it was a challenge to not be on site everyday. It was all worth it, though; I couldn't be happier with the result!"* >

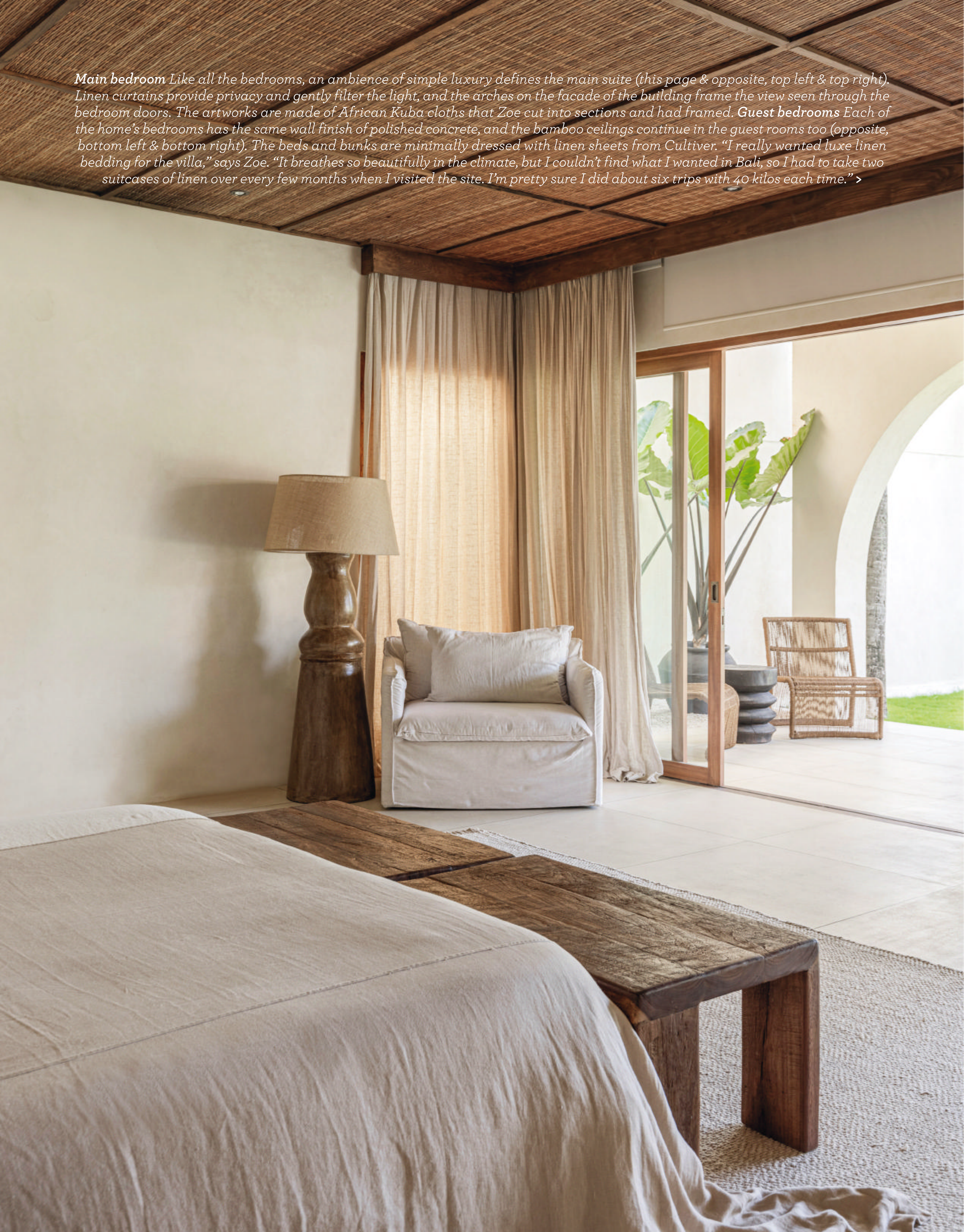


extended an outdoor corridor and added arches to frame it. On the other side of the large lawn, they constructed a single-storey building to host guests with a facade that mirrors the arches of the main home. "We tried to keep Balinese architecture at the front of our minds when designing the large overhaul of the villa. I wanted to honour the importance of Balinese heritage architecture and add our own personal twist," shares Zoe.

The couple worked alongside interior designer Francisca Simon of Fuze Collective to create what is now a five-bedroom home with an additional TV room and study. Each feature has been custom-built for the villa and only a few materials have been used, such as bamboo, glass, polished concrete, travertine and wood. Everything is made out of natural elements, giving the home an earthy yet relaxed feeling, which feels timeless and will age with grace, as well as becoming an integral part of the design and architectural fabric of the island. HB ***For more stunning homes, visit www.homebeautiful.com.au.***

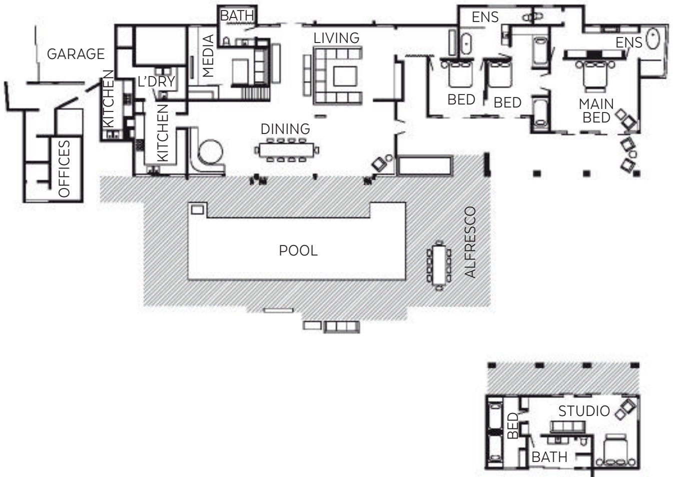
Kitchen *Zoe (pictured, opposite) kept the kitchen minimalistic and chose the same materials she used in the rest of the home: polished concrete and Lupo weaving for the cabinetry (this page & opposite). Large windows offer lush views of the central garden and pool, and a matching opening looks onto the dining and living areas.* >

> "GIVEN THAT I WEAR SO MUCH COLOUR EVERY DAY, I LIKE MY HOME TO FEEL RELAXING AND CALMING"
>
> **ZOE**



Main bedroom Like all the bedrooms, an ambience of simple luxury defines the main suite (this page & opposite, top left & top right). Linen curtains provide privacy and gently filter the light, and the arches on the facade of the building frame the view seen through the bedroom doors. The artworks are made of African Kuba cloths that Zoe cut into sections and had framed. **Guest bedrooms** Each of the home's bedrooms has the same wall finish of polished concrete, and the bamboo ceilings continue in the guest rooms too (opposite, bottom left & bottom right). The beds and bunks are minimally dressed with linen sheets from Cultiver. "I really wanted luxe linen bedding for the villa," says Zoe. "It breathes so beautifully in the climate, but I couldn't find what I wanted in Bali, so I had to take two suitcases of linen over every few months when I visited the site. I'm pretty sure I did about six trips with 40 kilos each time." >

FLOOR PLAN


BATH
ENS
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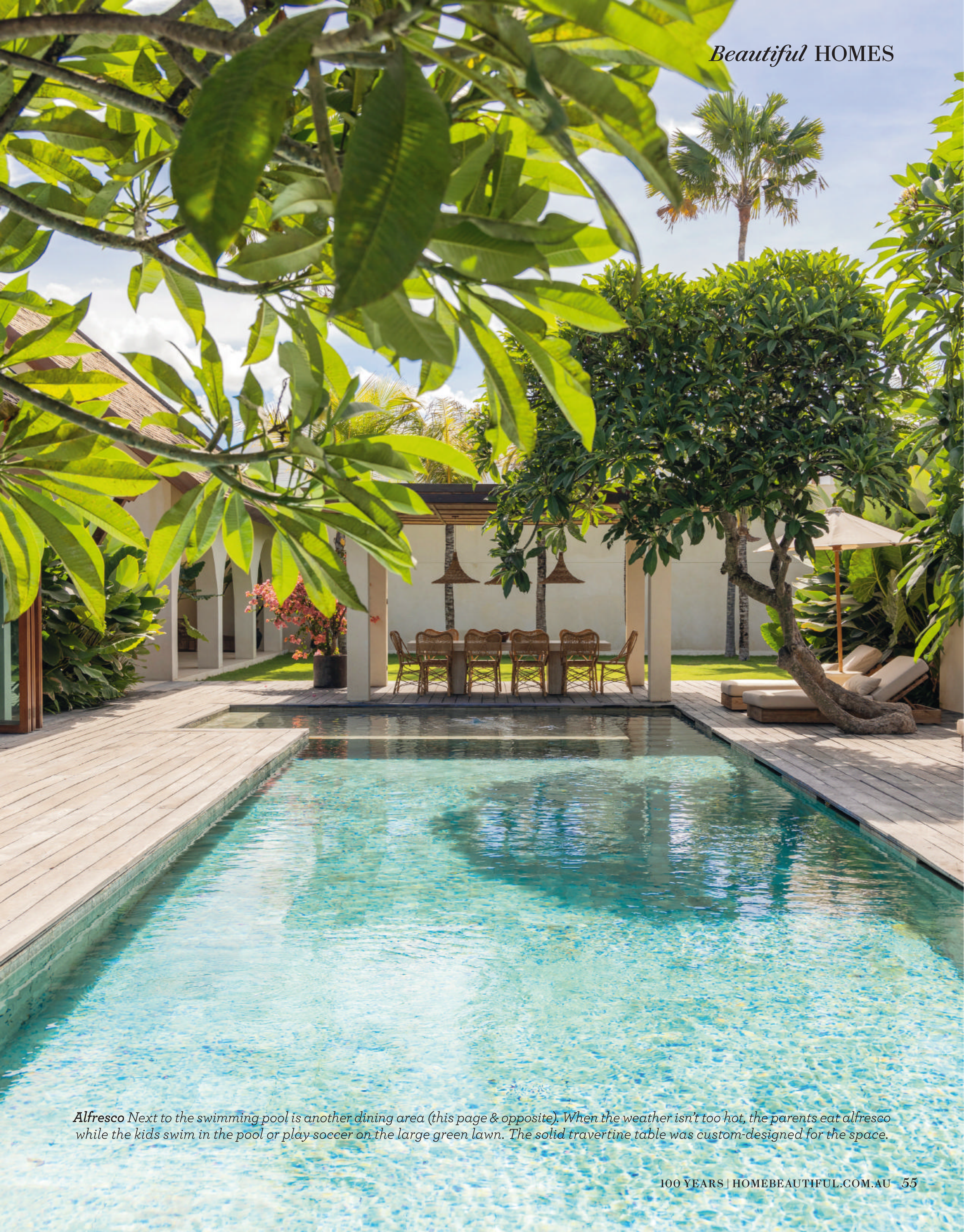
GARAGE
LIVING
MEDIA
L'DRY
KITCHEN
KITCHEN
BED
BED
MAIN BED
DINING
OFFICES
POOL
ALFRESCO
STUDIO
BED
BATH

Main bathroom *Polished concrete continues in the couple's bathroom (this page), which includes bespoke sinks and a bath. Beautiful bamboo details also feature here on the joinery doors, which house plenty of wardrobe space, letting the bathroom function as a dressing room. Paper pendant shades fill the relaxing retreat with a warm glow by night, and custom mirrors perfectly complement the home's natural, tonal palette. For similar mirrors, try Loughlin Furniture, and check out Imprint House for this teardrop pendant lighting look.* ***Kids' bathroom*** *Zoe kept the design simple for the kids' bathroom (opposite), where sunlight floods the space from a large light well.* **>**

“THE BEDROOMS AND BATHROOMS ARE ALL INTERCONNECTING – SO IT WORKS REALLY WELL FOR FAMILIES STAYING HERE – OR THEY CAN BE SHUT OFF IF NEEDED” **ZOE**

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design: *Zoe enlisted the help of Francisca Simon at Fuze Collective, @fuzecollective.id.*
Stay: *Villa Mizi is available for holiday rentals, and sleeps up to three families. Check out villamizi.com for booking information.*
Zoe's dress: *Mister Zimi, misterzimi.com.*



Alfresco *Next to the swimming pool is another dining area (this page & opposite). When the weather isn't too hot, the parents eat alfresco while the kids swim in the pool or play soccer on the large green lawn. The solid travertine table was custom-designed for the space.*

Getaway spot *The rooftop deck of this Queensland holiday home owned by Kylie and Simon is a luxurious oasis, with sweeping views stretching kilometres of coastline. The existing outdoor kitchen was overhauled with a new barbecue Beefeater Proline barbecue from Harvey Norman, cabinetry clad in outdoor Compact Laminate Polytec in Polar White, topped in Caesarstone Palm Shade outdoor range. To accommodate visiting friends and larger family get-togethers, an 'Adele' extendable table from Outdoor Elegance, paired with Uniqwa Collections dining chairs and a James Said 'Lomax' outdoor setting provides relaxed comfort for casual meals. An umbrella from the Original Parasol Co adds a Palm Beach-inspired pop of pink, complemented by a potted bougainvillea.* >

Ocean breeze

A newly renovated Sunshine Coast apartment has become an idyllic, long dreamt of beach retreat

STORY KYLIE JACKES
PHOTOGRAPHY LOUISE ROCHE

Ever since their first trip to Mooloolaba on Queensland's Sunshine Coast 22 years ago, Kylie and Simon had imagined one day having their own place in the popular holiday spot. "Our first holiday to Mooloolaba was when our youngest son was just a toddler and we just loved the area and friendly atmosphere and continued going back almost every year as our four children were growing up," shares Kylie. An annual beach-break from their cattle property, a five-hour drive away on Queensland's western Darling Downs, the couple always kept an eye on the Coast real estate market, hoping to snap up their own beach place, and in 2022, they did. While the coveted location was hard to beat, the penthouse apartment needed a refresh so the couple enlisted the expertise of interior designer Sophie Hendry of Coco Interiors to imbue a "special feel," which she delivered in spades.

Although the initial plan was to simply update furnishings, the scope grew and grew. "The bathroom cabinetry was dated and deteriorating, the kitchen layout lacked functionality, the laundry setup needed improving so it quickly became apparent it was worthwhile overhauling the entire interior," says Sophie, who also project managed the renovation.

The brief for the new look was a light bright feel, in an ocean palette of blues, greens and aquas layered with texture. The couple were also after "something unique" which Sophie embraced wholeheartedly, designing bespoke joinery, tracking down incredible mother of pearl-like artisan tiles, which create delight throughout, coupled with statement lighting and carefully curated, custom upholstered furnishings.

In addition to aesthetics, functionality was addressed with custom solutions which maximised the available space and overcame constraints presented by angled walls. "A key change was removing the walk-in wardrobe and bath in the main bedroom which really opened up the space and enhanced the natural light in the ensuite," explains Sophie. "The kitchen design was also altered to create more usable bench space and storage, with better connectivity to the dining and living zones." As in the case with many renovations, improvements inside inspired a knock-on effect outside, with the decision made mid project to extend the beautiful new travertine floors upstairs to the rooftop, where entertaining areas were retiled and transformed to create a luxurious getaway.

"It's become a fabulous entertaining space and as you ascend the stairs and are greeted by the ocean, it feels like you're floating somewhere in the Mediterranean," muses Sophie, of the idyllic zone that has been updated with a new outdoor kitchen, refurbished spa and dreamy zones furnished for alfresco dining and reclining.

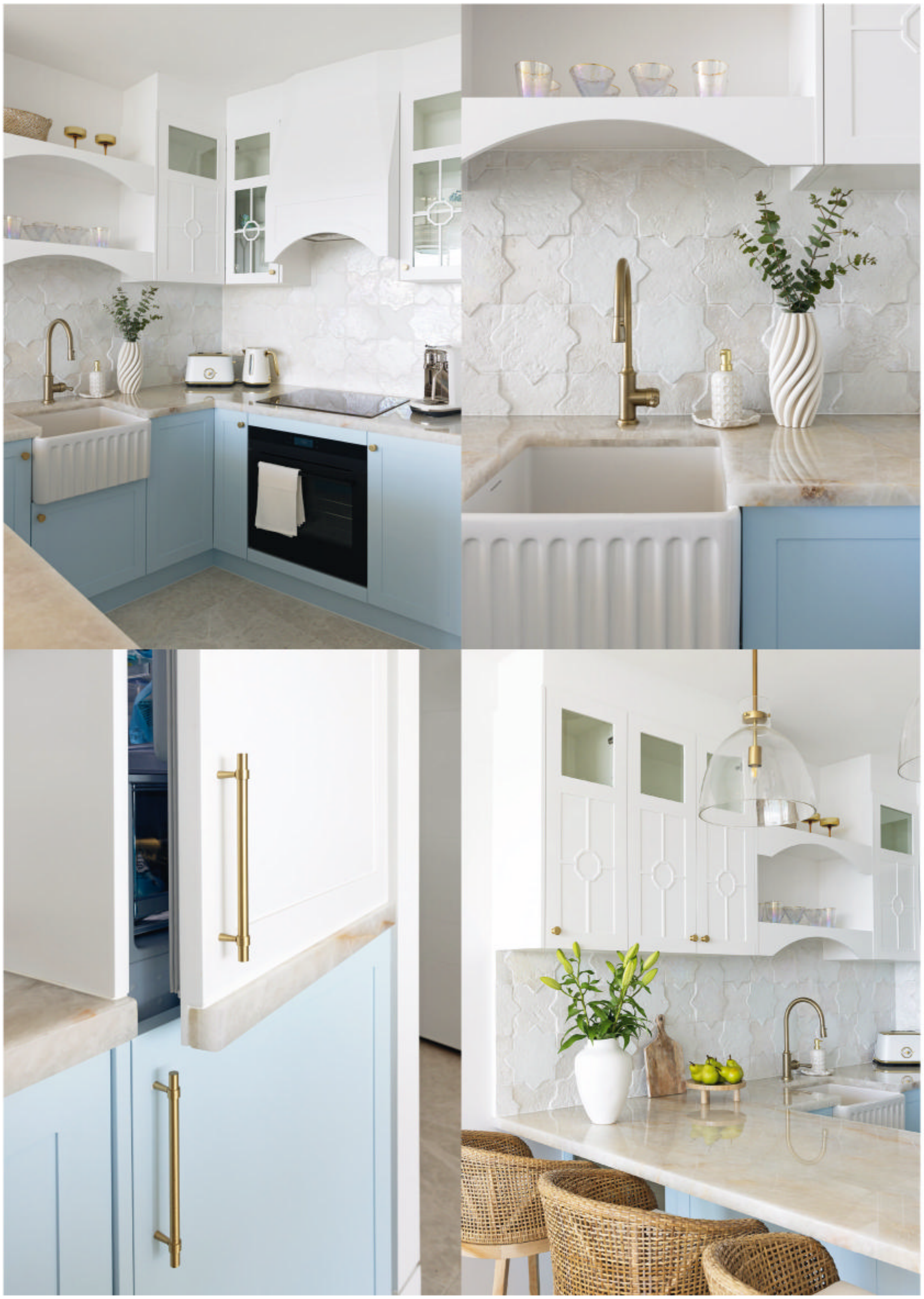
With the finishing touches completed late 2023, Kylie and Simon celebrated with a week-long holiday, joined by their four adult sons, daughters in-law and grandchildren who stayed nearby and visited for rooftop barbecues and dips in the spa. For Kylie, it still seems surreal to have realised their dream of owning a place in their favourite beach location. "We've been visiting Mooloolaba for so long I've been asked numerous times, when we're staying, if I'm a local and I guess we are a little bit more now we have a place here." HB ***For more stunning homes, visit www.homebeautiful.com.au.***

Living *A key requirement in the living area was for a deep sofa which could accommodate the couple's tall sons. Sophie designed a custom piece to suit and had it upholstered by Cover Story Home in Warwick 'Husk' fabric teamed with custom cushions in subtle ocean hues. A 'Kashi' rug in Stone and 'Indira' coffee table, both from Boyd Blue help define the more intimate zone, as do a pair of Uniqwa Collections 'Camps Bay' armchairs.*

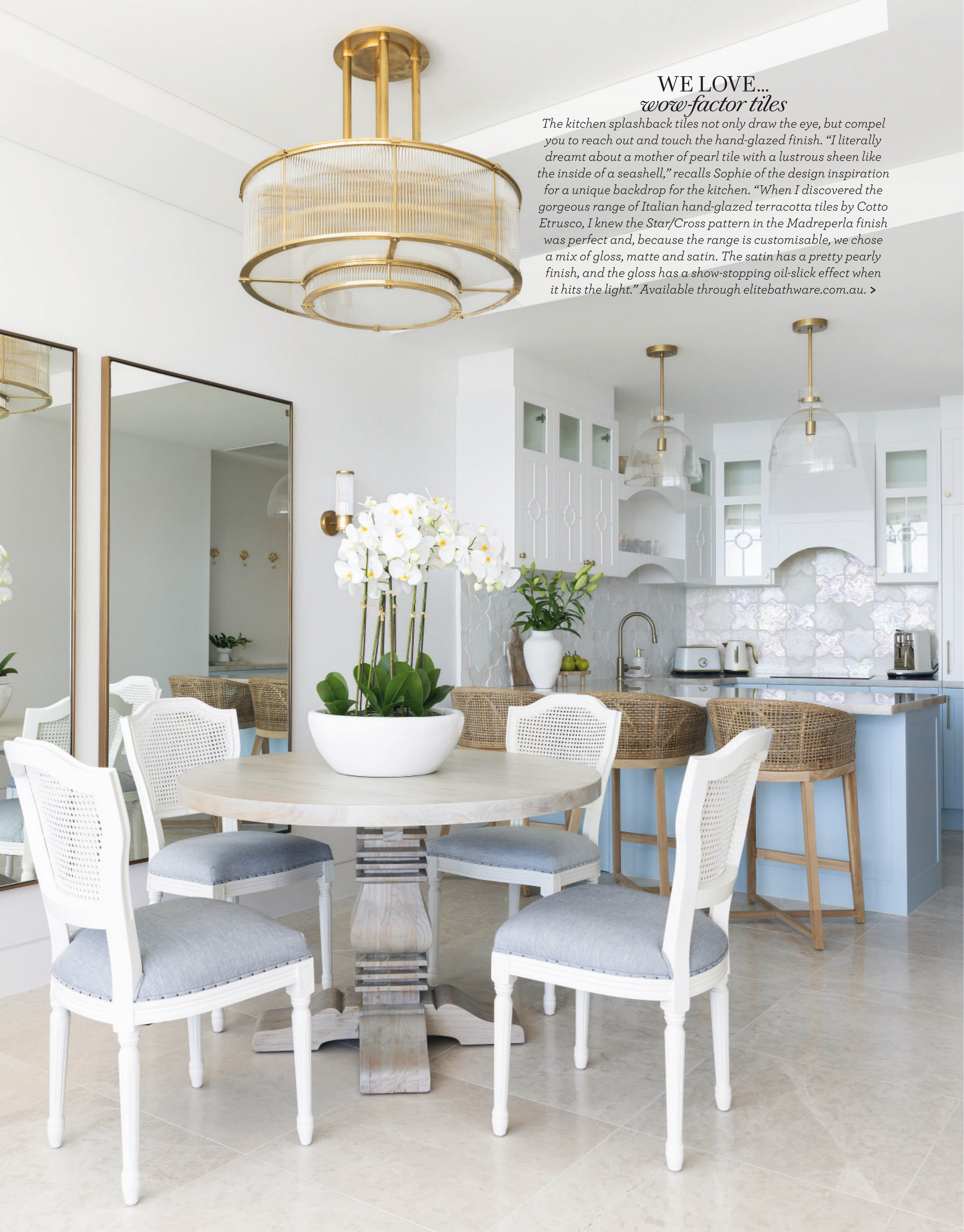
INSIDE STORY
Kylie & Simon's home

Who holidays here? *Kylie and Simon, cattle farmers from Queensland's western Darling Downs region.* ***What was integral to the renovation?*** *Kylie: "We used local trades, suppliers and businesses for nearly everything during the renovation. We felt it was important to support and collaborate with the local people."* ***Holiday ritual?*** *"We love walking on the beach."* ***Favourite piece in the apartment?*** *"The custom couch by Cover Story Home; it's special because we had it made with our sons in mind, with an extra deep seat for comfort."* ***Anything you'd still like to add to the home?*** *"I'm an artist so I would like a painting I've created to grace the walls."* >

ARTWORK ARTIST UNKNOWN



***Kitchen** "It's absolutely beautiful," says Kylie of the kitchen (this page). "The tiles are really special and I love the stone benchtop," she says of the amazing slab of Crystallo Purity Brazilian Quartzite from Verona Stone. "For the integrated fridge and freezer we created a rebate in the door, which allowed us to inlay the stone to create the illusion of the benchtop continuing through," explains Sophie. Incredible Italian hand-glazed tiles across the splashback underscored by blue cabinetry in Dulux Sea Cliff Half also add to the luxurious, subtle coastal feel, as do a pair of 'Eddie' glass pendants from Coco Republic. **Dining** Sophie had an Abide Interiors 'Newport' table custom limewashed by A Davine Finish in the dining zone (opposite) and paired it with 'April' chairs from Style My Home. An elegant brass Ralph Lauren 'Allen' chandelier hangs above and walls feature a pair of mirrors from James Said.*



WE LOVE...
wow-factor tiles

The kitchen splashback tiles not only draw the eye, but compel you to reach out and touch the hand-glazed finish. "I literally dreamt about a mother of pearl tile with a lustrous sheen like the inside of a seashell," recalls Sophie of the design inspiration for a unique backdrop for the kitchen. "When I discovered the gorgeous range of Italian hand-glazed terracotta tiles by Cotto Etrusco, I knew the Star/Cross pattern in the Madreperla finish was perfect and, because the range is customisable, we chose a mix of gloss, matte and satin. The satin has a pretty pearly finish, and the gloss has a show-stopping oil-slick effect when it hits the light." Available through elitebathware.com.au. >

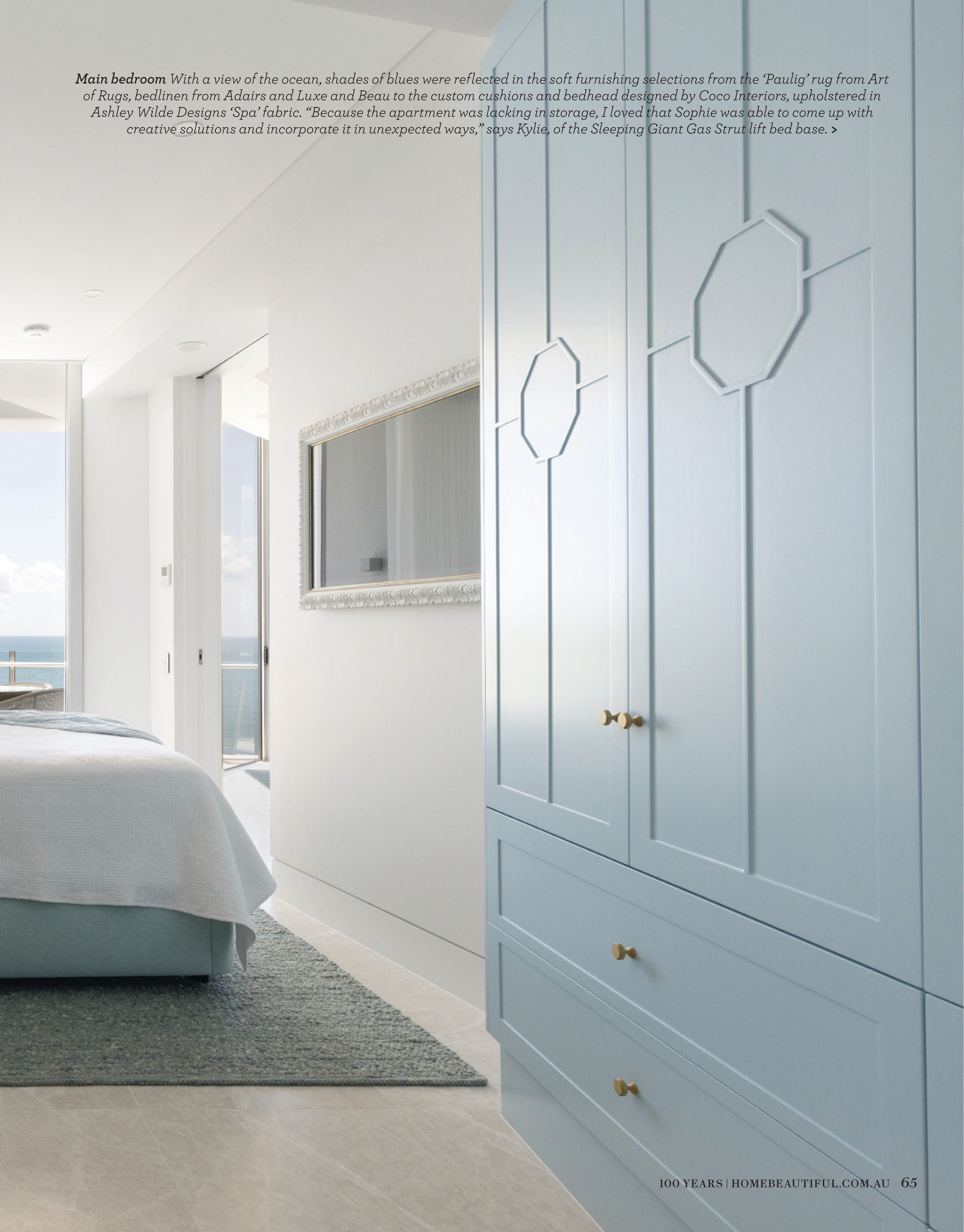
“I LOVE THE NEW TRAVERTINE FLOORING. IT’S MADE A MASSIVE DIFFERENCE THROUGHOUT”

KYLIE, HOMEOWNER

Main bedroom *The Thibault Portier Beaded Pearl wallpaper in the main bedroom (top left & bottom right) is a standout and a ‘Cilantro’ bedside from Boyd Blue is topped with a Lighting Illusions lamp.* ***Guest bedroom*** *Custom cushions in the guest bedroom (top right) by Cover Story Home sit atop Sheridan ‘Reilly’ coverlets in Atlantic from Myer.* ***Ensuite*** *Crystallo Purity Brazilian Quartzite from Verona Stone envelops the vanity top in the ensuite (opposite). Brodware ‘Winslow’ wall spout sourced from Harvey Norman Commercial accentuates the stone, while a custom mirror by Glazier enhances the sense of space. The shower zone is highlighted with a wall of Cotto Etrusco Star/Cross tiles in Cielo Gloss finish, sourced from Elite Bathware & Tiles.* >

“I ADORE THE TROPICAL INTERIORS OF PALM BEACH AND FELT THE APARTMENT WOULD SUIT THIS GLAMOROUS AESTHETIC”

SOPHIE HENDRY, INTERIOR DESIGNER

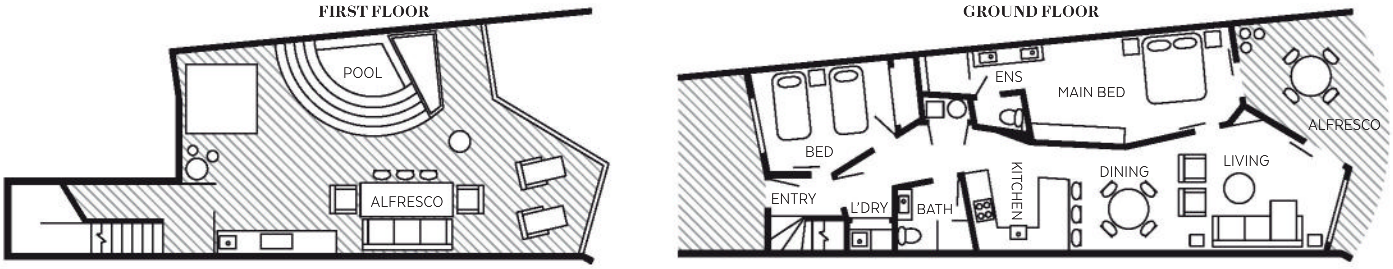


Main bedroom *With a view of the ocean, shades of blues were reflected in the soft furnishing selections from the 'Paulig' rug from Art of Rugs, bedlinen from Adairs and Luxe and Beau to the custom cushions and bedhead designed by Coco Interiors, upholstered in Ashley Wilde Designs 'Spa' fabric. "Because the apartment was lacking in storage, I loved that Sophie was able to come up with creative solutions and incorporate it in unexpected ways," says Kylie, of the Sleeping Giant Gas Strut lift bed base.* >

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design & project management: *Coco Interiors, cocointeriors.com.au.* ***Kitchen & custom joinery:*** *Serrata Joinery, serratajoinery.com.au.* ***Tiling:*** *Paul McGuire Bespoke Tiling, pm_bespoke_tiling* ***Stone sealing:*** *prestige-stone.com.au.*

FLOOR PLAN

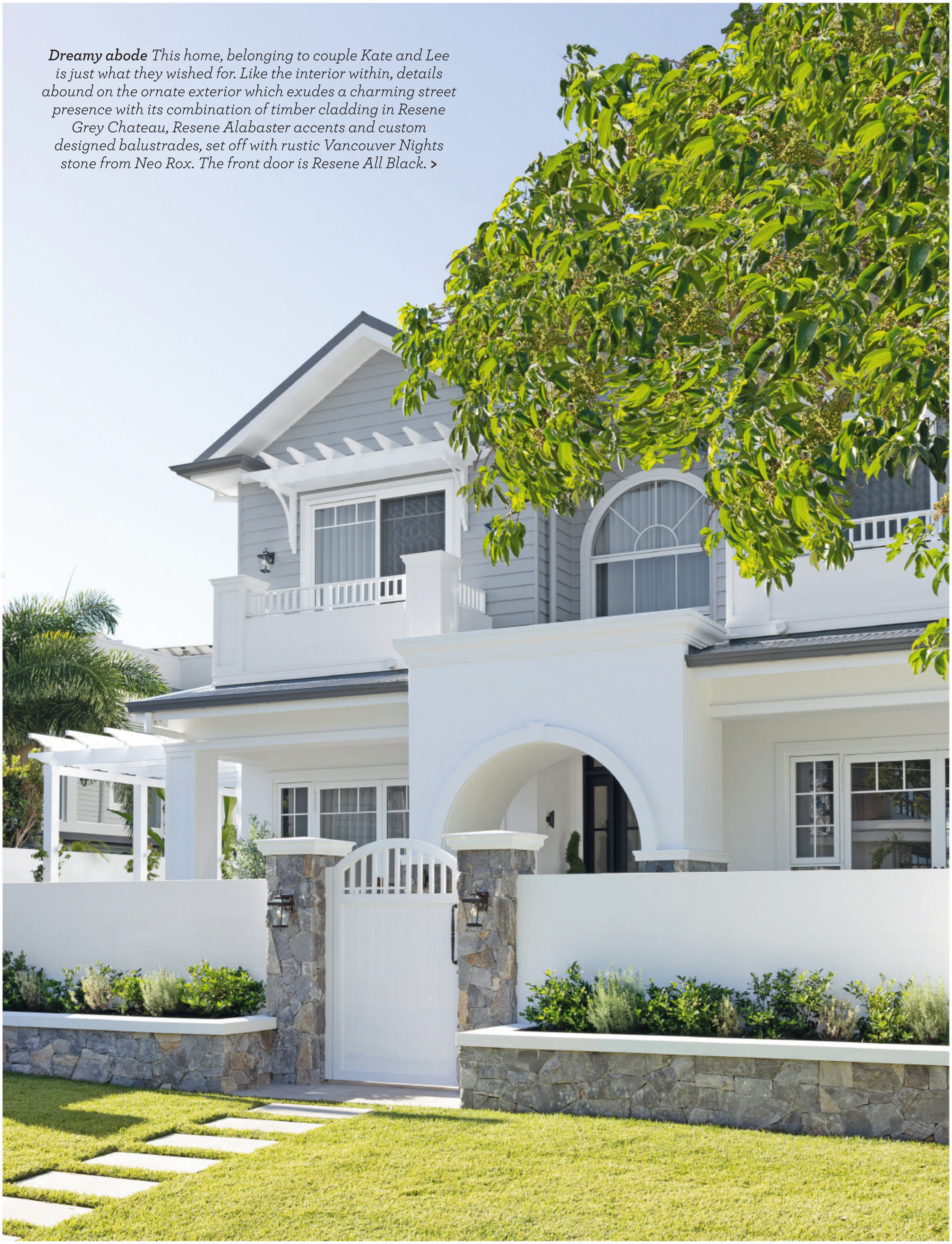

FIRST FLOOR
POOL
ALFRESCO
GROUND FLOOR
ENS
MAIN BED
ALFRESCO
BED
LIVING
DINING
KITCHEN
ENTRY
L'DRY
BATH

Rooftop terrace *A drawcard of the apartment was the vast outdoor space (this page & opposite, bottom right). A favourite spot for an afternoon siesta is a corner of the rooftop terrace, furnished with a 'Cabana' daybed from Bloom Outdoor (opposite, top left), layered with custom outdoor cushions in Warwick fabrics. The sun loungers are from Classic With A Twist.* ***Bedroom balcony*** *Off the main bedroom, the balcony (opposite, top right & bottom left) features a 'Kadima' dining table and 'Retreat' chairs, both from Uniqwa Collections.*

WORTH THE WAIT

Long-awaited and much anticipated, there's nothing this Gold Coast family would change about their spectacular Hamptons-inspired haven

STORY & STYLING KYLIE JACKES | PHOTOGRAPHY LOUISE ROCHE



Dreamy abode *This home, belonging to couple Kate and Lee is just what they wished for. Like the interior within, details abound on the ornate exterior which exudes a charming street presence with its combination of timber cladding in Resene Grey Chateau, Resene Alabaster accents and custom designed balustrades, set off with rustic Vancouver Nights stone from Neo Rox. The front door is Resene All Black.* >

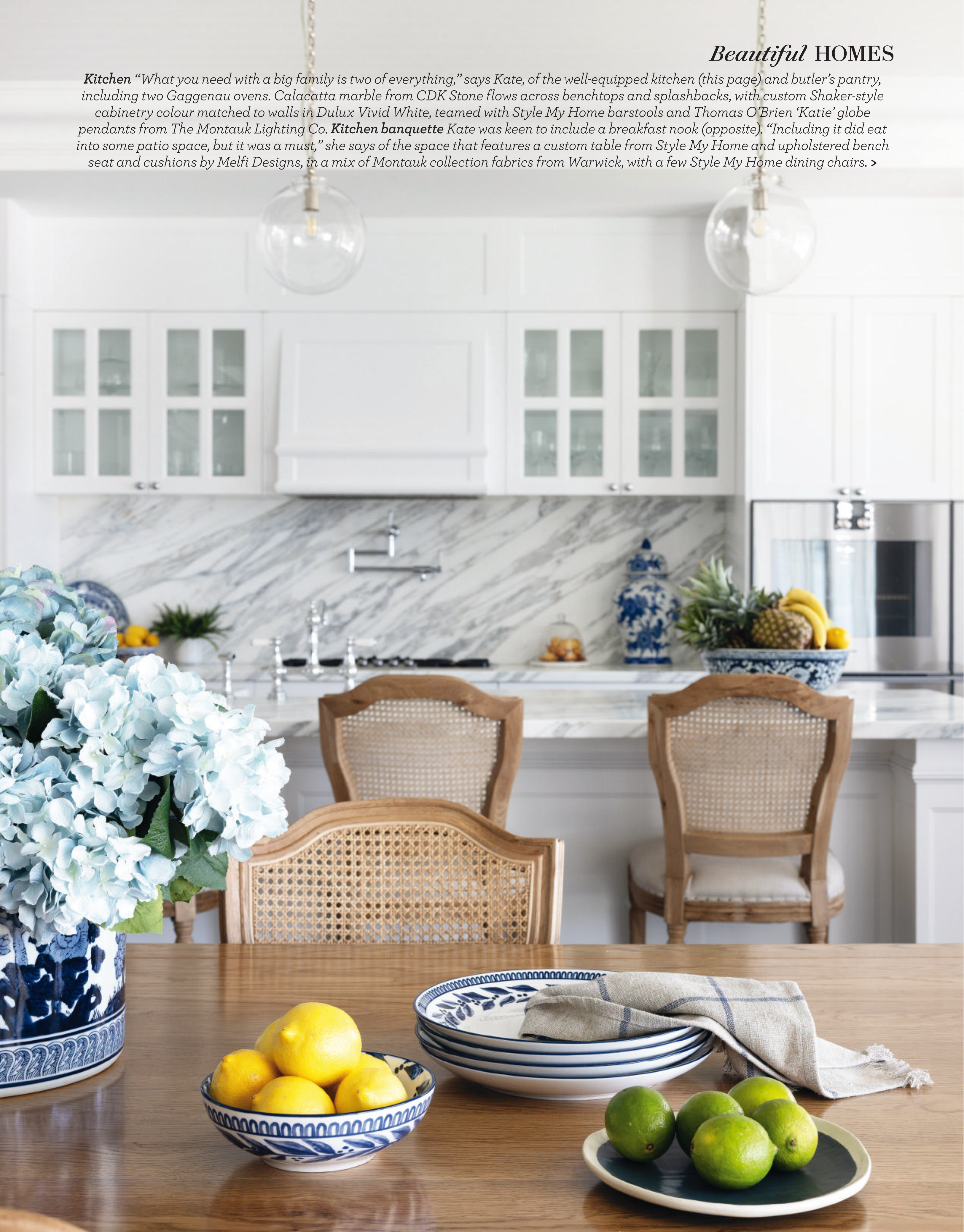
Boîte de rangement

A passion project, it was always a dream of Kate's to build a Hamptons-style family home, together with husband Lee, to enjoy with their children Lachlan, Chloe and Sienna. "I love the level of detail and their classic homely feel, which is so welcoming," says Kate, who undertook her own Hamptons masterclass, researching various interpretations of the style and key features, while compiling a compendium of inspiration pictures for the project.

Step one was snapping up an ideal block, which they did in 2020, securing a north-facing canal site overlooking the water, with views of the Gold Coast's Broadbeach skyline. A complete knockdown of the existing home and pool followed, creating a clean slate for the family to build their home.

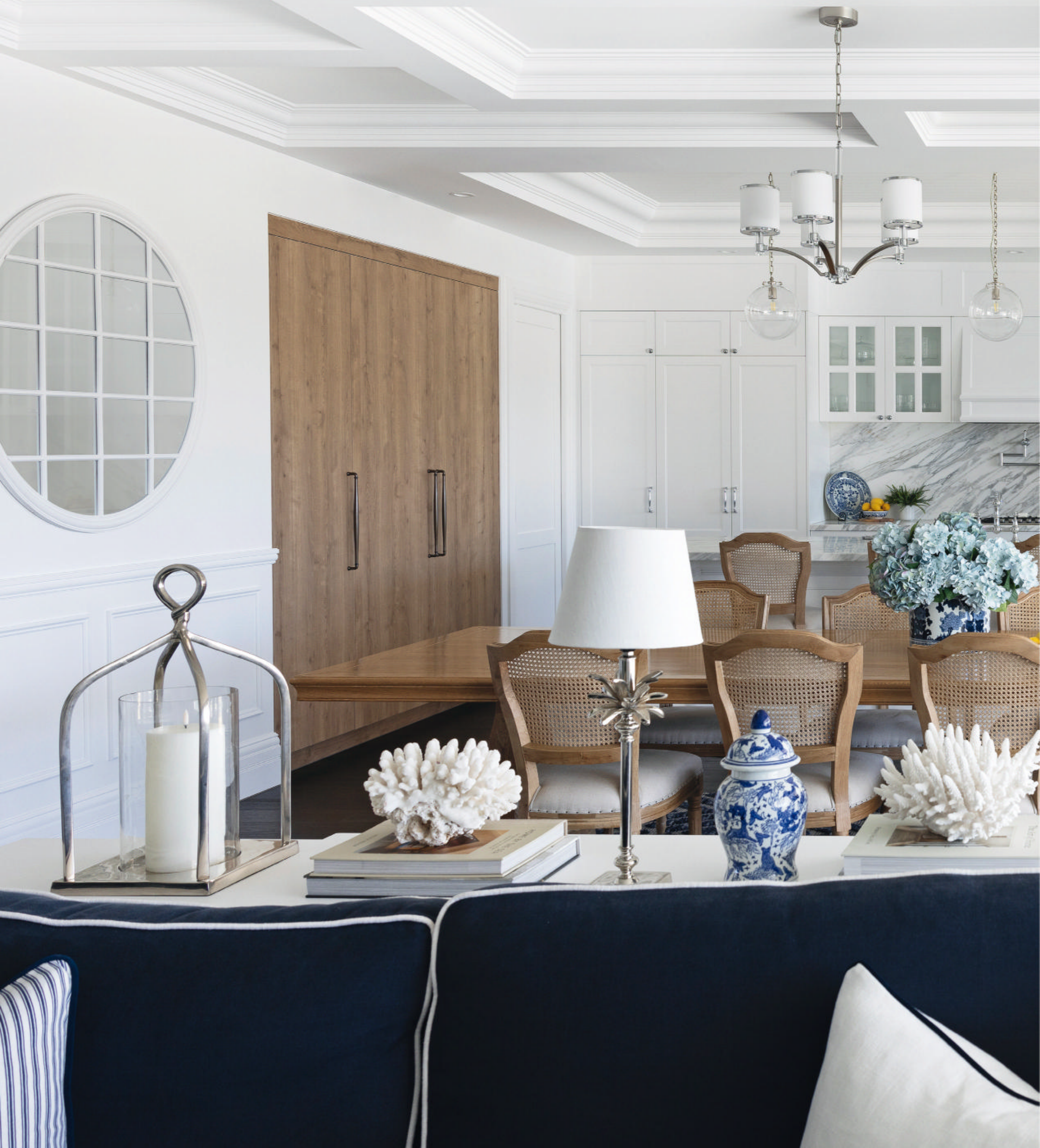
Fortuitously, through a recommendation, they got in touch with building designer Lizzie Paterson of Elkora Design, who had the expertise to tackle the immense project, layered with intricate architectural details, from elaborate coffered ceilings and wall panelling to custom- designed balustrades, windows and arches, enveloped in a luxurious palette of timeless finishes and fixtures.

The ambitious future-proof plan involved building up, as well as digging down to construct a sizeable basement to accommodate multiple cars and a gym. Bedrooms were all given an ensuite, various living areas were dotted across two floors ensuring plenty of space for the family to spread out and entertain, with high-use hubs – such as the laundry and kitchen – equipped to cater for multiple adults. "We wanted to fit a lot on a 749-square-metre block, >

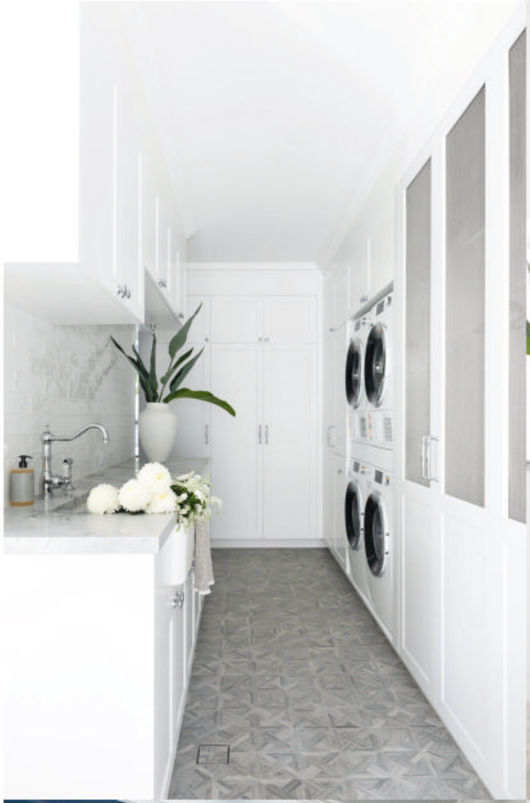


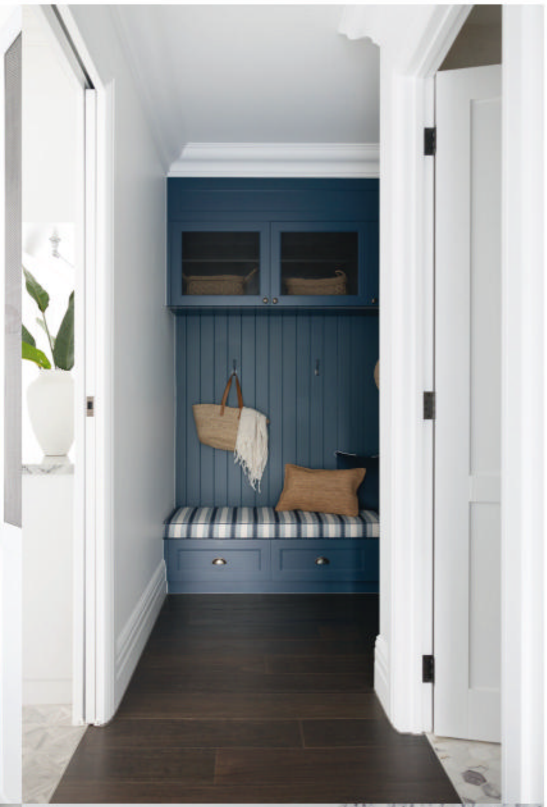
Kitchen *"What you need with a big family is two of everything," says Kate, of the well-equipped kitchen (this page) and butler's pantry, including two Gaggenau ovens. Calacatta marble from CDK Stone flows across benchtops and splashbacks, with custom Shaker-style cabinetry colour matched to walls in Dulux Vivid White, teamed with Style My Home barstools and Thomas O'Brien 'Katie' globe pendants from The Montauk Lighting Co.* ***Kitchen banquette*** *Kate was keen to include a breakfast nook (opposite). "Including it did eat into some patio space, but it was a must," she says of the space that features a custom table from Style My Home and upholstered bench seat and cushions by Melfi Designs, in a mix of Montauk collection fabrics from Warwick, with a few Style My Home dining chairs.* >

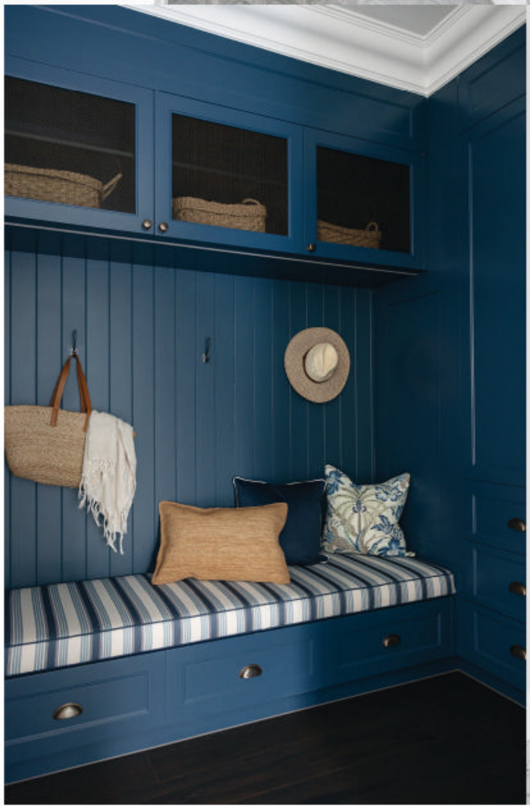
Dining *Large enough for a crowd, the dining table and chairs, sourced from Style My Home, are grounded with a rug from Harvey Norman. For added elegance, the coffered ceilings extend into the zone and are complemented with an Elstead Lighting 'Pave' chandelier from Light Co (discontinued). Another must-have in the Hamptons scheme was dark floors. "They're so practical with a large family and lots of dogs," says Kate of the dark-toned Boral Metallon Tungsten flooring from Marques Flooring. Coastal touches, such as pieces of coral which sit atop the Style My Home console behind the sofa add another layer to the look.* >

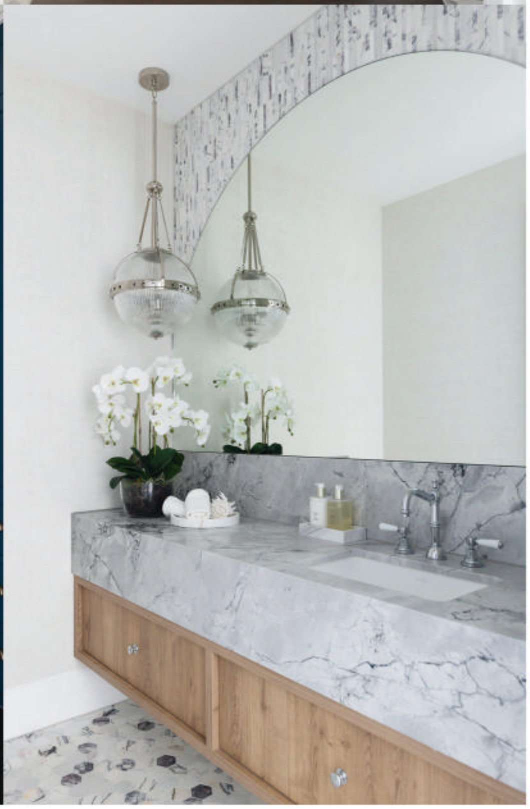


Boite de rangement









Laundry *Abundant storage keeps the laundry (top left) streamlined and pleasing to the eye, with mesh-fronted drying cabinets seamlessly integrated into the scheme providing practical ventilation.* ***Mudroom*** *In the mudroom (top right & bottom left) walls and custom joinery are unified in Resene Coast, coordinated with an upholstered bench seat in Warwick Montauk collection in Mirren Delft.* ***Powder room*** *New York honed hexagon marble floor tiles and New York kit kat wall tiles in the powder room (bottom right) are from Groove Tiles and Stone.* ***Butler's pantry*** *In this area (opposite), the benchtop is the same as in the kitchen.*

INSIDE STORY
Kate & Lee's home

Who lives here *Kate and Lee, business owners, with their children Lachlan, 21, Chloe, 20, Sienna, 15, as well as Chloe's boyfriend Rocco. Groodles Chase and Molly and little Cavoodles Luna and Lola.*
Favourite feature of the house? *Kate: "There's so many but the breakfast nook is a particular standout. It was something in the planning stage that I said was a must-have and it's fantastic."*
Interior style? *"I'm all for navy and stripes and I love all the details and layers within a Hamptons-style home. For me it was really important to create a place that feels homely."*
Where do you love spending time? *"I love sitting on the patio in the afternoons watching the boats go up and down the river. It's also a great space for entertaining."* >

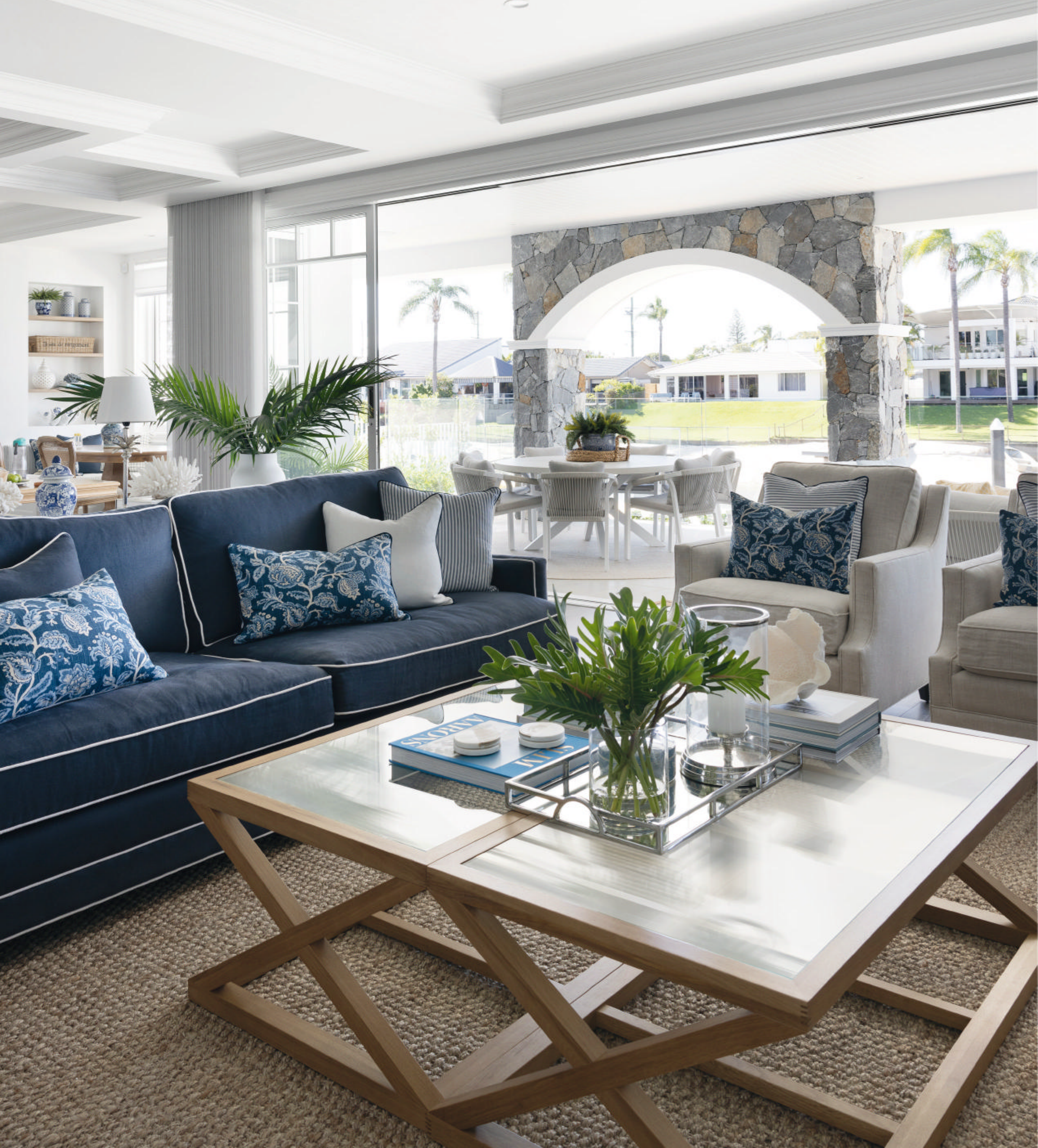
and Lizzie was just fabulous. She did virtual walk-through videos explaining the different design options, which was so helpful," recalls Kate. "The result was a great design for the block, with no wasted space, we use it all."

While the couple initially hoped they'd build for a year or so and be in, as the house grew in complexity and the design evolved, every stage took a lot longer. Renting in the same street during the build, Kate reflects it was incredibly convenient to pop around multiple times a day to discuss things with the builder, yet a constant view of the site also meant she was keenly aware of every stage of the project, which at times felt like it went on forever. Putting the time to use, Kate sourced all new furniture throughout, indulging her love of classic pieces in a mix of neutrals and blues teamed with stripes. "I gravitated towards a more traditional Hamptons style, and received input from the kids on their spaces, which are a more modern take on the look," she explains. When it came to the final decorating touches, she called on the styling services of her favourite store, Alfresco Emporium, to add the extra homely layers.

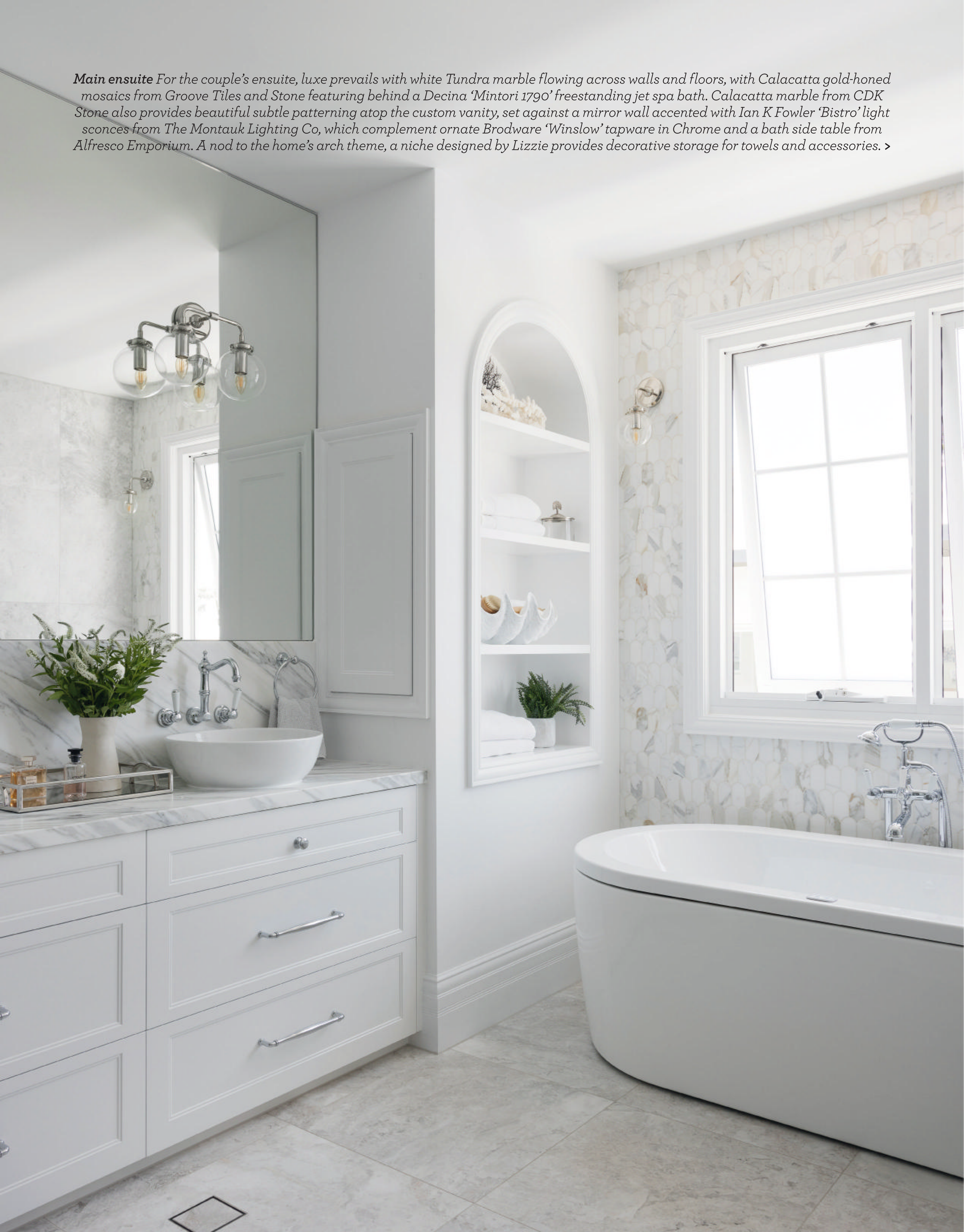
Moving in at the end of 2023, the house has lived up to its entertaining capacity, as the venue for Lee's 50th birthday celebrations and a sit-down Christmas lunch for 25. Yet for Kate it's settling into regular home life that brings the most joy. "We're all incredibly comfortable here. The kids tell us all the time they're never going anywhere, and we're happy with that." HB ***For more stunning homes, visit www.homebeautiful.com.au***.

ARTWORK ALFRESCO EMPORIUM

Living *"I love that I can look out to the water and the skyline, while still feeling connected to the abundance of family and friends we always have in our home," says Kate of the living area. "It is the place where we all gather and enjoy one another's company." The connection to the views and adjoining alfresco area enhances the spacious feel, with the cosy arrangement of sofas and chairs from Coco Republic. Cushions from Alfresco Emporium add layers of botanical pattern and stripes, while a central Style My Home coffee table holds a collection of books. A jute rug, also from Alfresco Emporium, brings a relaxed feel to the space.* >

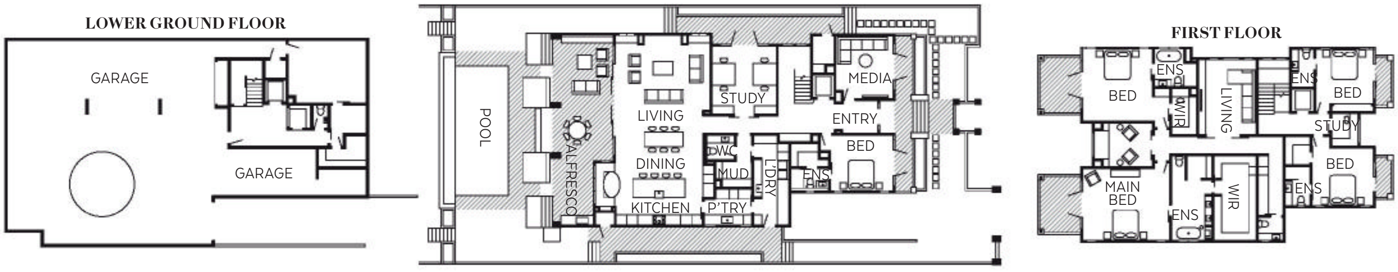


> “THE MARBLE WAS A BIT OF A SPLURGE BUT ONCE YOU’VE HAD IT, IT’S HARD TO GO BACK TO PORCELAIN” **KATE**

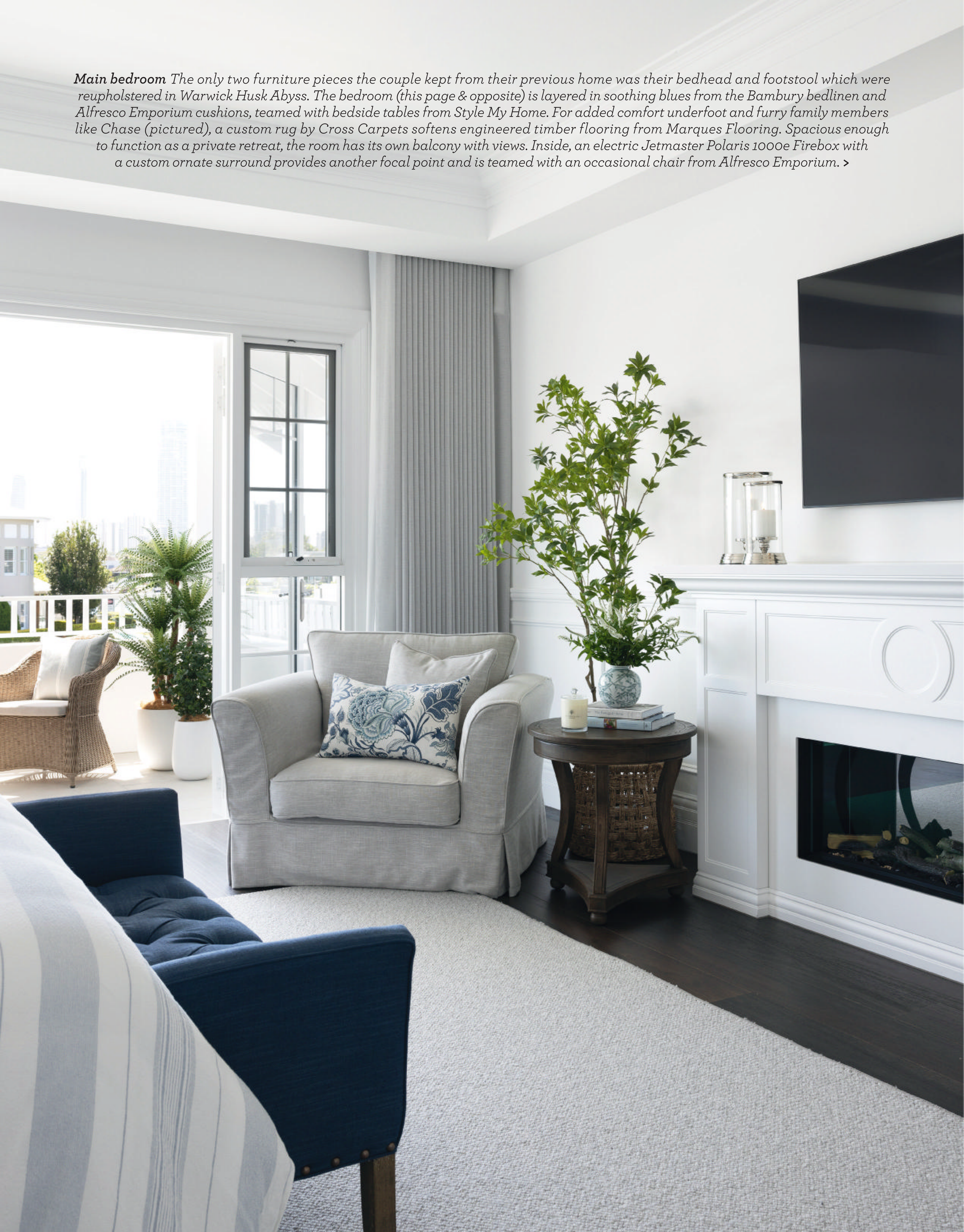


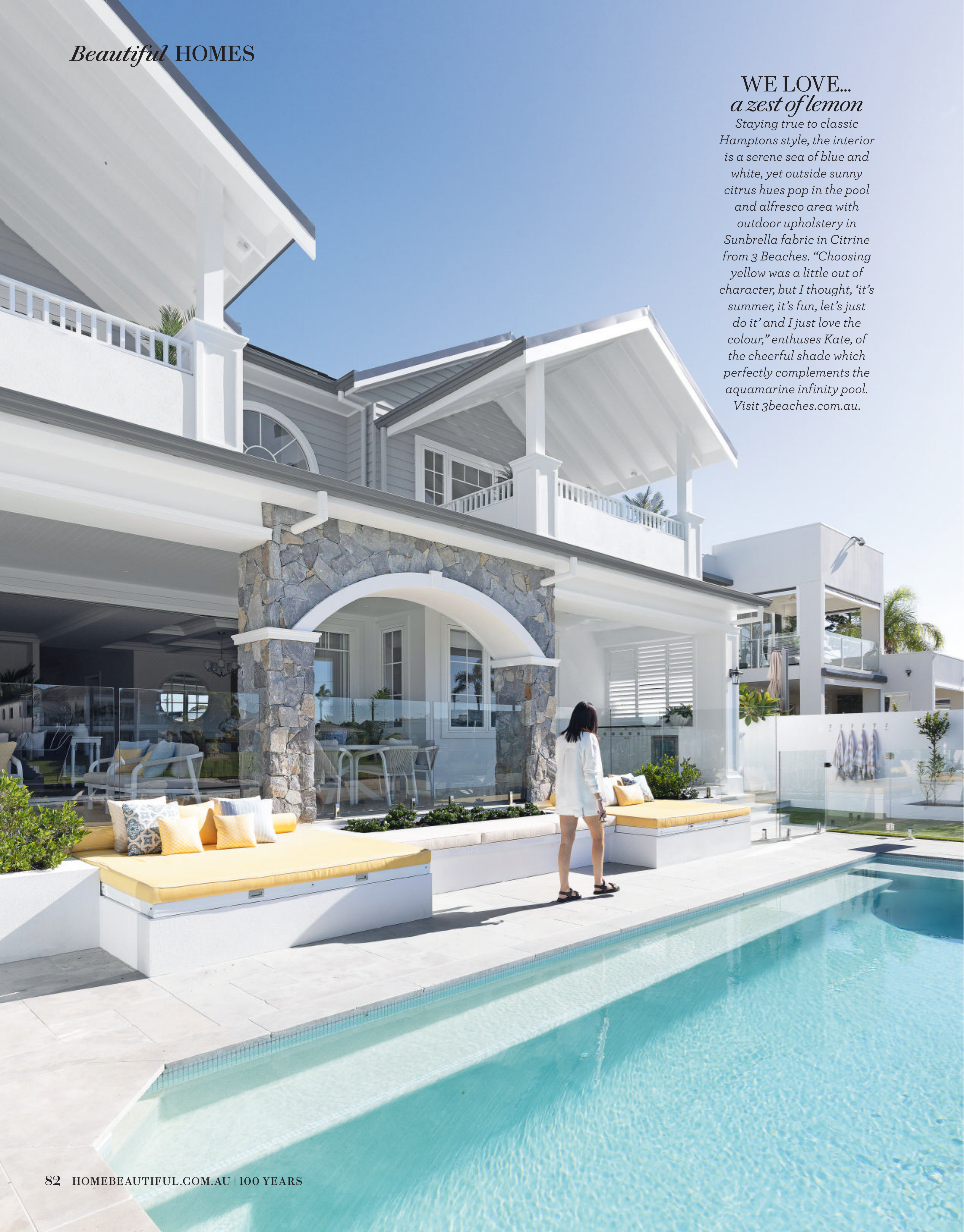
Main ensuite *For the couple's ensuite, luxe prevails with white Tundra marble flowing across walls and floors, with Calacatta gold-honed mosaics from Groove Tiles and Stone featuring behind a Decina 'Mintori 1790' freestanding jet spa bath. Calacatta marble from CDK Stone also provides beautiful subtle patterning atop the custom vanity, set against a mirror wall accented with Ian K Fowler 'Bistro' light sconces from The Montauk Lighting Co, which complement ornate Brodware 'Winslow' tapware in Chrome and a bath side table from Alfresco Emporium. A nod to the home's arch theme, a niche designed by Lizzie provides decorative storage for towels and accessories.* >

FLOOR PLAN


LOWER GROUND FLOOR
GARAGE
GARAGE
GROUND FLOOR
POOL
ALFRESCO
LIVING
DINING
KITCHEN
STUDY
WC
MUD
P'TRY
L'DRY
ENS
MEDIA
ENTRY
BED
FIRST FLOOR
BED
ENS
WIR
LIVING
ENS
BED
STUDY
BED
ENS
MAIN BED
ENS
WIR

Main bedroom *The only two furniture pieces the couple kept from their previous home was their bedhead and footstool which were reupholstered in Warwick Husk Abyss. The bedroom (this page & opposite) is layered in soothing blues from the Bambury bedlinen and Alfresco Emporium cushions, teamed with bedside tables from Style My Home. For added comfort underfoot and furry family members like Chase (pictured), a custom rug by Cross Carpets softens engineered timber flooring from Marques Flooring. Spacious enough to function as a private retreat, the room has its own balcony with views. Inside, an electric Jetmaster Polaris 1000e Firebox with a custom ornate surround provides another focal point and is teamed with an occasional chair from Alfresco Emporium.* >





WE LOVE... *a zest of lemon*

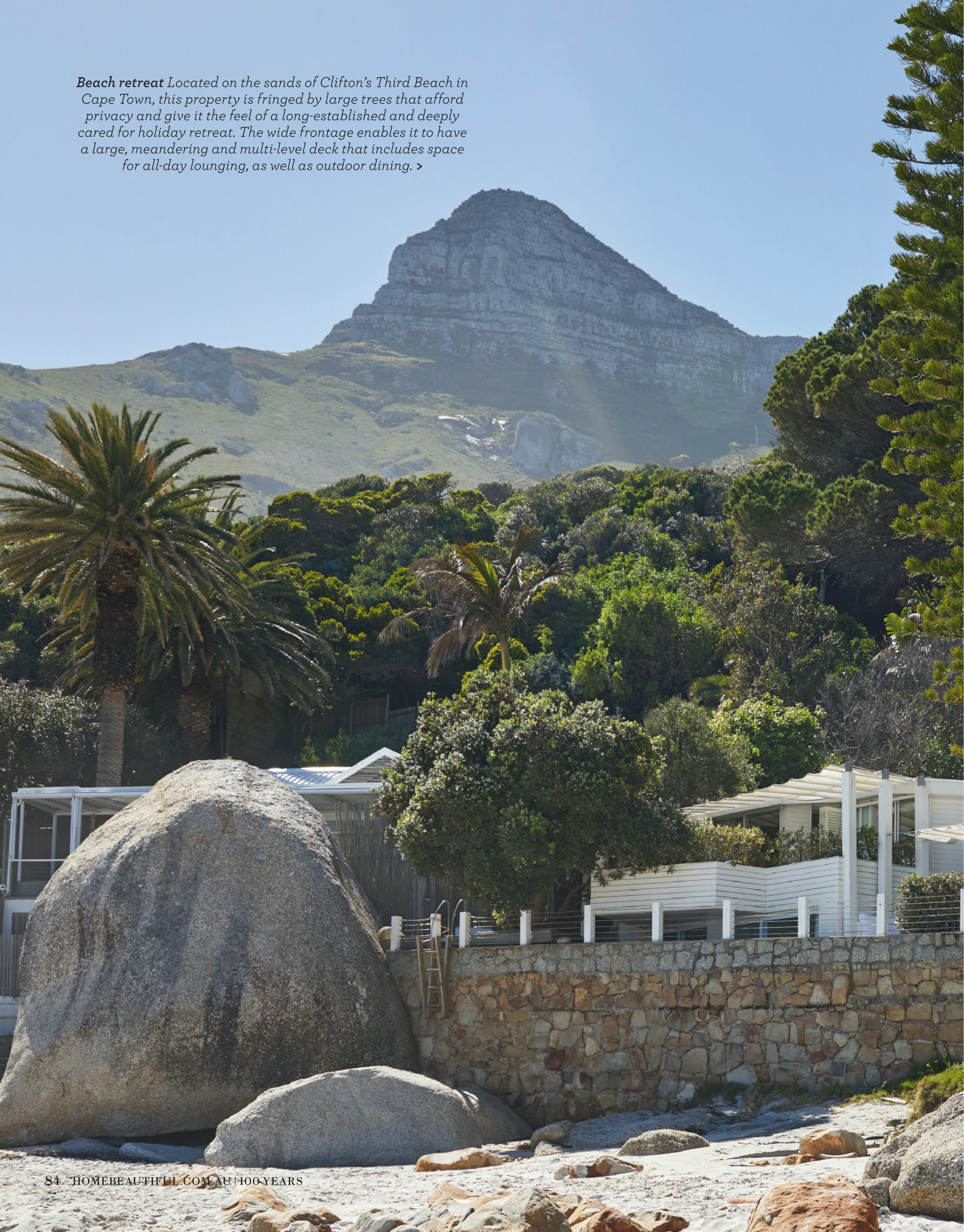
Staying true to classic Hamptons style, the interior is a serene sea of blue and white, yet outside sunny citrus hues pop in the pool and alfresco area with outdoor upholstery in Sunbrella fabric in Citrine from 3 Beaches. "Choosing yellow was a little out of character, but I thought, 'it's summer, it's fun, let's just do it' and I just love the colour," enthuses Kate, of the cheerful shade which perfectly complements the aquamarine infinity pool. Visit 3beaches.com.au.

SOURCE BOOK

Building design/interiors: *Lizzie Paterson, Elkora Design Co, @elkoradesignco* ***Builder:*** *Evbuilt, evbuilt.com.au.* ***Interior styling:*** *Alfresco Emporium, alfrescoemporium.com.au.* ***Landscaping:*** *LScapes, lscapes.com.au.* ***Pool:*** *Galaxy Pool Constructions @galaxypoolconstructi*

Alfresco area *Beautiful year-round, this sunny zone (this page) is furnished with a Harvey Noman outdoor setting, brightened with custom cushions in a range of Warwick fabrics.* **Pool** *Although Kate led the project, the one area Lee was passionate about was the pool (opposite). "He was adamant we were having an infinity pool, inspired by the pool at Tingirana, which is our favourite place to stay in Noosa," says Kate.*

Beach retreat *Located on the sands of Clifton's Third Beach in Cape Town, this property is fringed by large trees that afford privacy and give it the feel of a long-established and deeply cared for holiday retreat. The wide frontage enables it to have a large, meandering and multi-level deck that includes space for all-day lounging, as well as outdoor dining.* **>**



Serene Dream

A minimalist white-on-white bungalow, set right on the sand of an iconic Cape Town beach, is the very essence of a perfectly pared back holiday escape

STORY ROBYN ALEXANDER | PHOTOGRAPHY GREG COX

STORY COURTESY OF **BUREAUX** PRODUCTION **SVEN ALBERDING**

Some houses epitomise the lazy, hazy days of summer – and this beautifully simple and spacious bungalow, situated on a beach in Cape Town, South Africa, is one of them. Positioned right on the shore with a private access path directly down to the pearl-white sands, this is a magical holiday home that takes its minimalist design cues from the pristine environment.

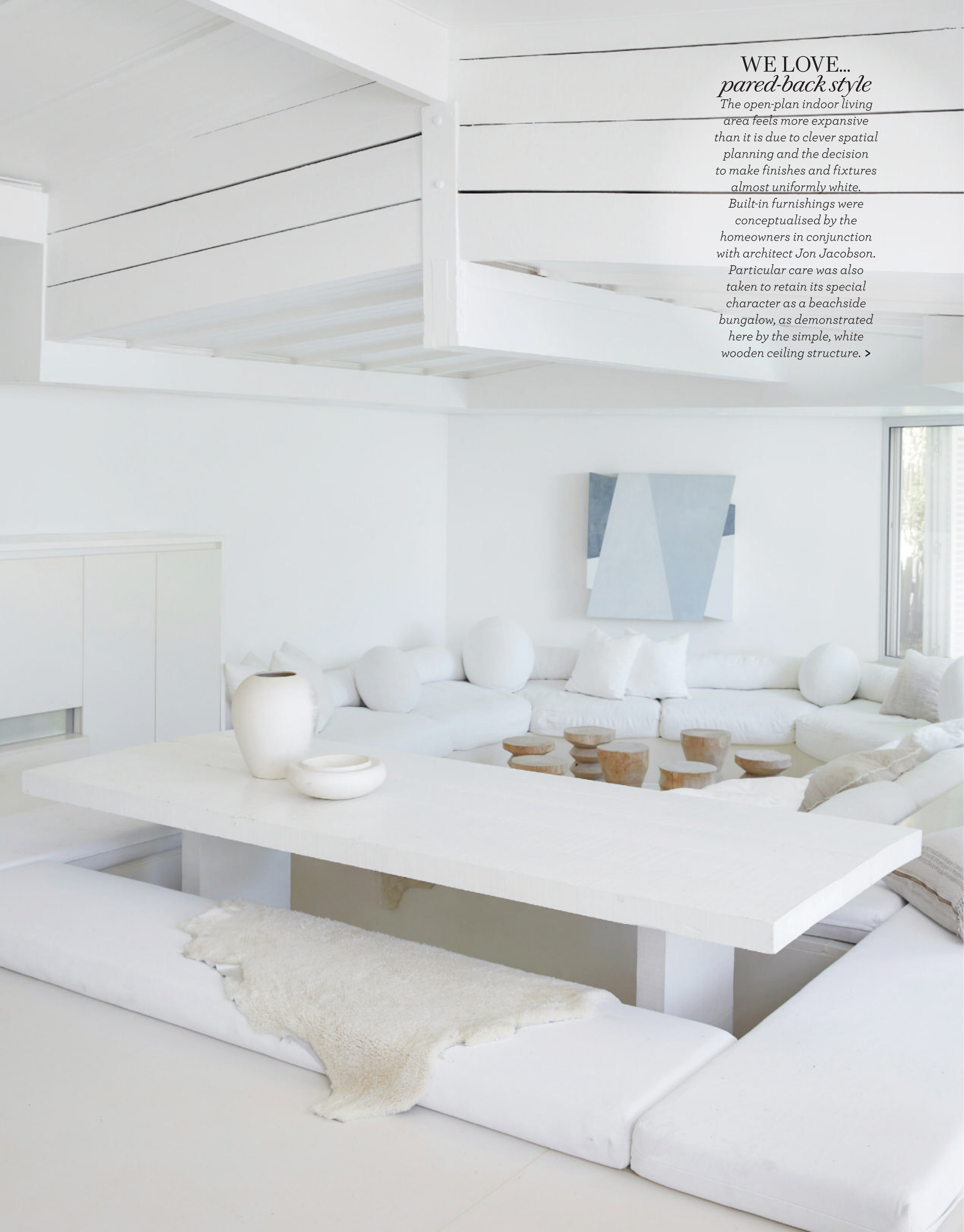
Its current owners have spent many years regularly spending time here enjoying the house since first acquiring it. Having been looking for a suitable holiday escape for some time, they say, "Serendipity brought us to Third Beach, and we saw a 'For Sale' sign on what was evidently a rather neglected but unique site". The existing bungalow on the property was then "scarcely okay for habitation," they add. But the location was wonderful, and in spite of its neglected state, "the built envelope was interesting, with possibilities".

So the purchase was made, and award-winning Cape Town architect Jon Jacobson briefed to help redevelop the house. The main idea was to create a home that made the very most of the exceptional site, which has frontage onto the beach as well as privacy-enhancing vegetation. Above all, the homeowners knew they wanted "nothing flashy – it's a beach bungalow and should stay that way".

That initial renovation was followed by a second update a few years later as "we learnt from the first renovation, and our ideas evolved over the years of using the space extensively," they say, emphasising the fact that "Jon's eye for detail was critical with the contained spaces". Indeed, the reworked house is successful very much as a result of the restraint applied to spatial organisation as well as finishes and furnishings, which have combined to create a considered purity of style. And this simplicity is further enhanced by the fact that almost everything in the house is white, with a few touches of soft blue and some natural wood elements that serve as gentle visual punctuation marks.

One enters the home almost directly into a central main living area that includes an open-plan kitchen, dining space and retro-fabulous sunken lounge. Light

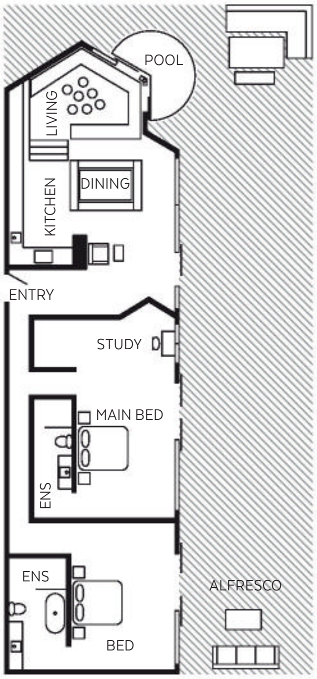
Dining *Light washes into the dining area (this page & opposite), which features built-in furniture conceptualised by the homeowner and architect Jon Jacobson. The scatter cushions are made from fabric sourced by the homeowners in Bali and the vases are by Cape Town ceramicist Anthony Shapiro. An artwork on the far wall is by John Carter.*



WE LOVE... *pared-back style*

The open-plan indoor living area feels more expansive than it is due to clever spatial planning and the decision to make finishes and fixtures almost uniformly white. Built-in furnishings were conceptualised by the homeowners in conjunction with architect Jon Jacobson. Particular care was also taken to retain its special character as a beachside bungalow, as demonstrated here by the simple, white wooden ceiling structure. **>**

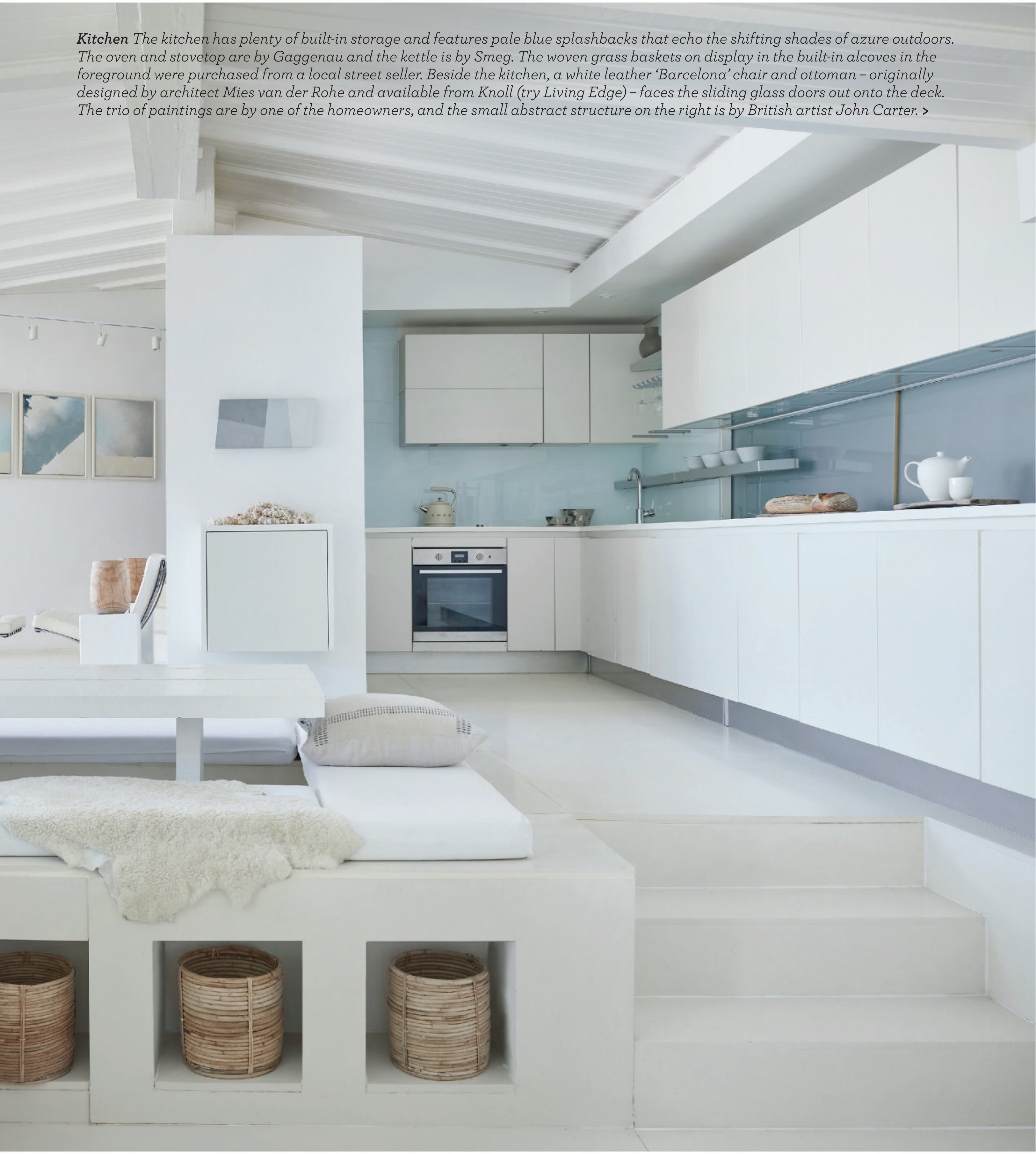
FLOOR PLAN



floods into this entire zone through glass sliding doors that open onto the deck. Also on this level are two guest bedrooms and bathrooms, while a spacious and very private main bedroom ensuite is situated on the upper level, complete with its own study area and a petite terrace.

Outside on the lower floor, the meandering, multi-level deck area is perfectly appointed for living alfresco – once again, in the most laid-back manner possible. The outdoor elements here include a plunge pool, shaded seating areas, spaces furnished with loungers and set-ups for outdoor cooking and eating. Almost every element of the furnishings here are also in pristine white, which is beautifully complemented by the weathered grey boards of the deck, and further set off by a few key wooden pieces.

Asked what their three chosen adjectives would be to sum up the home's interior and architectural aesthetic, the homeowners respond: "Connected. Simple. Well-used." Over the years, the house has played host to many family gatherings, and while the space works extremely well with family and friends in situ, it's also an ideal haven in which to spend time sequestered as a couple. "It's an oasis," they say, "and you feel that palpably." HB ***For more stunning homes, visit www.homebeautiful.com.au.***



Kitchen *The kitchen has plenty of built-in storage and features pale blue splashbacks that echo the shifting shades of azure outdoors. The oven and stovetop are by Gaggenau and the kettle is by Smeg. The woven grass baskets on display in the built-in alcoves in the foreground were purchased from a local street seller. Beside the kitchen, a white leather 'Barcelona' chair and ottoman – originally designed by architect Mies van der Rohe and available from Knoll (try Living Edge) – faces the sliding glass doors out onto the deck. The trio of paintings are by one of the homeowners, and the small abstract structure on the right is by British artist John Carter.* >

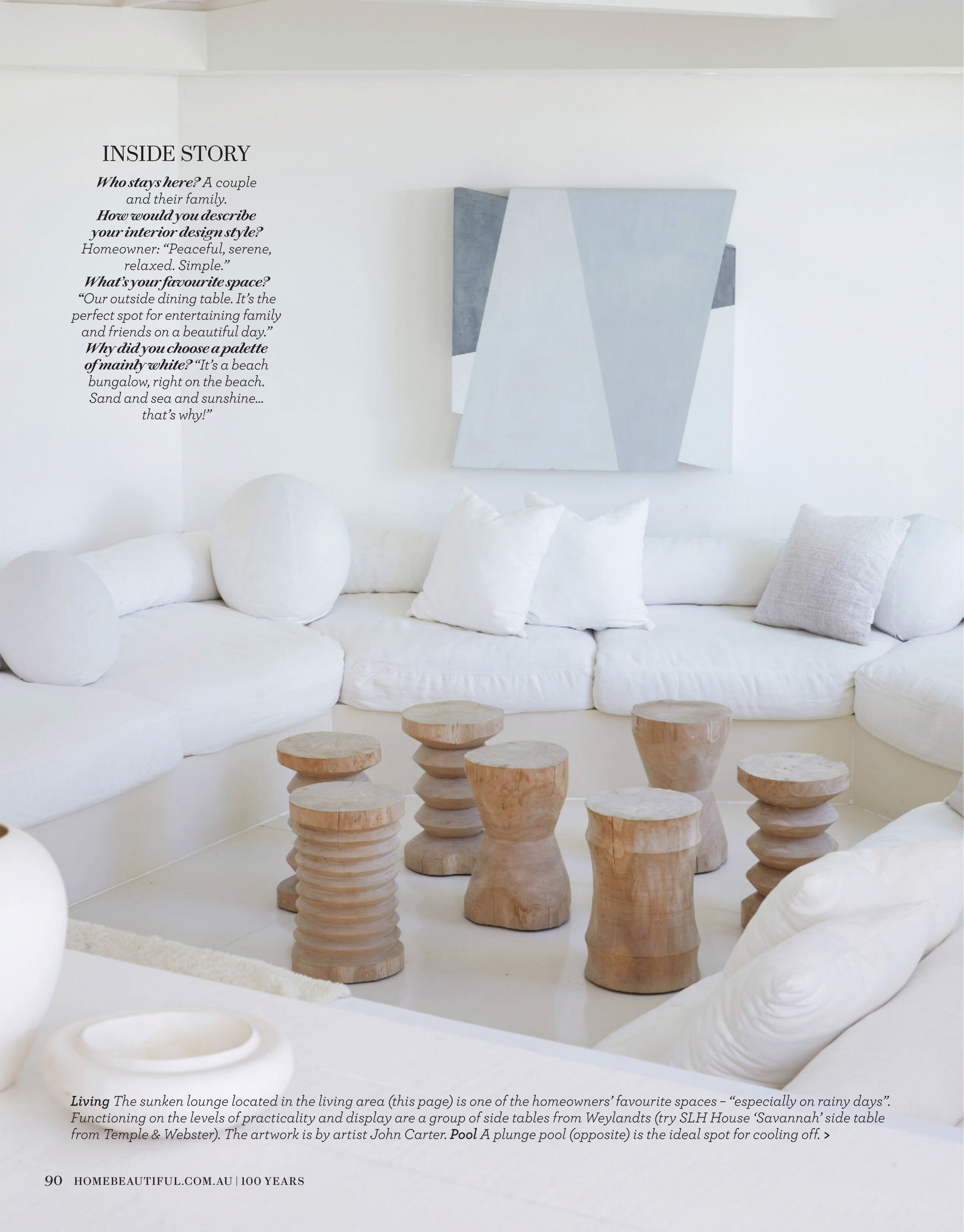
INSIDE STORY

Who stays here? *A couple and their family.*

How would you describe your interior design style? *Homeowner: "Peaceful, serene, relaxed. Simple."*

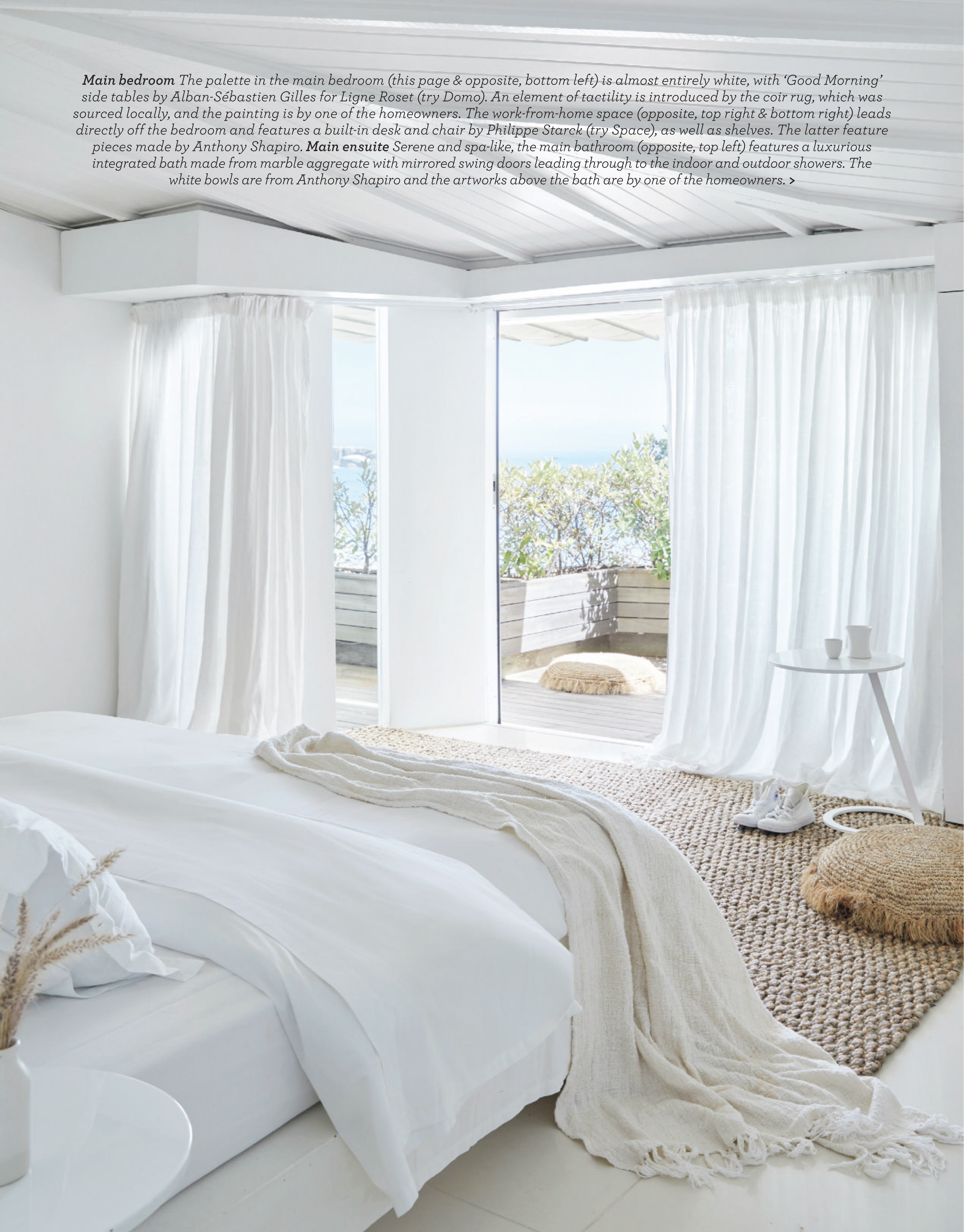
What's your favourite space? *"Our outside dining table. It's the perfect spot for entertaining family and friends on a beautiful day."*

Why did you choose a palette of mainly white? *"It's a beach bungalow, right on the beach. Sand and sea and sunshine… that's why!"*



Living *The sunken lounge located in the living area (this page) is one of the homeowners' favourite spaces – "especially on rainy days". Functioning on the levels of practicality and display are a group of side tables from Weylandts (try SLH House 'Savannah' side table from Temple & Webster). The artwork is by artist John Carter.* ***Pool*** *A plunge pool (opposite) is the ideal spot for cooling off.* **>**

"ALTHOUGH IT IS A BEAUTIFUL SPACE TO LOOK AT, IT IS MORE IMPORTANTLY WONDERFUL TO LIVE IN. IT HAS PRESENCE" **HOMEOWNER**



Main bedroom *The palette in the main bedroom (this page & opposite, bottom left) is almost entirely white, with 'Good Morning' side tables by Alban-Sébastien Gilles for Ligne Roset (try Domo). An element of tactility is introduced by the coir rug, which was sourced locally, and the painting is by one of the homeowners. The work-from-home space (opposite, top right & bottom right) leads directly off the bedroom and features a built-in desk and chair by Philippe Starck (try Space), as well as shelves. The latter feature pieces made by Anthony Shapiro.* ***Main ensuite*** *Serene and spa-like, the main bathroom (opposite, top left) features a luxurious integrated bath made from marble aggregate with mirrored swing doors leading through to the indoor and outdoor showers. The white bowls are from Anthony Shapiro and the artworks above the bath are by one of the homeowners.* **>**

“THE CHILDREN ENTERTAIN A LOT, SO IT’S BECOME A HAVEN FOR THEIR GENERATION. FOR THEM IT’S A KIND OF INSTITUTION” **HOMEOWNER**

Alfresco *The outdoor dining area (top left & opposite) has built-in seating that teams with a simple wooden bench from Weylandts and an outdoor table made from upcycled shipyard planks. A weathered three-legged wooden side table is also from Weylandts and the rectangular stool is made from an upcycled bollard; the glasses and carafes are by Danish design brand Menu. A nest-like woven bowl (bottom right) is from Lim. The outdoor shower (top right) is placed within the shelter of one of the characteristic granite boulders that dot the shoreline along the area’s beaches. The outdoor lounge chair is from Limeline and the ‘Prince Aha’ stool, which does double duty as a side table for toiletries and towels, is by Philippe Starck for Kartell (try Space).*

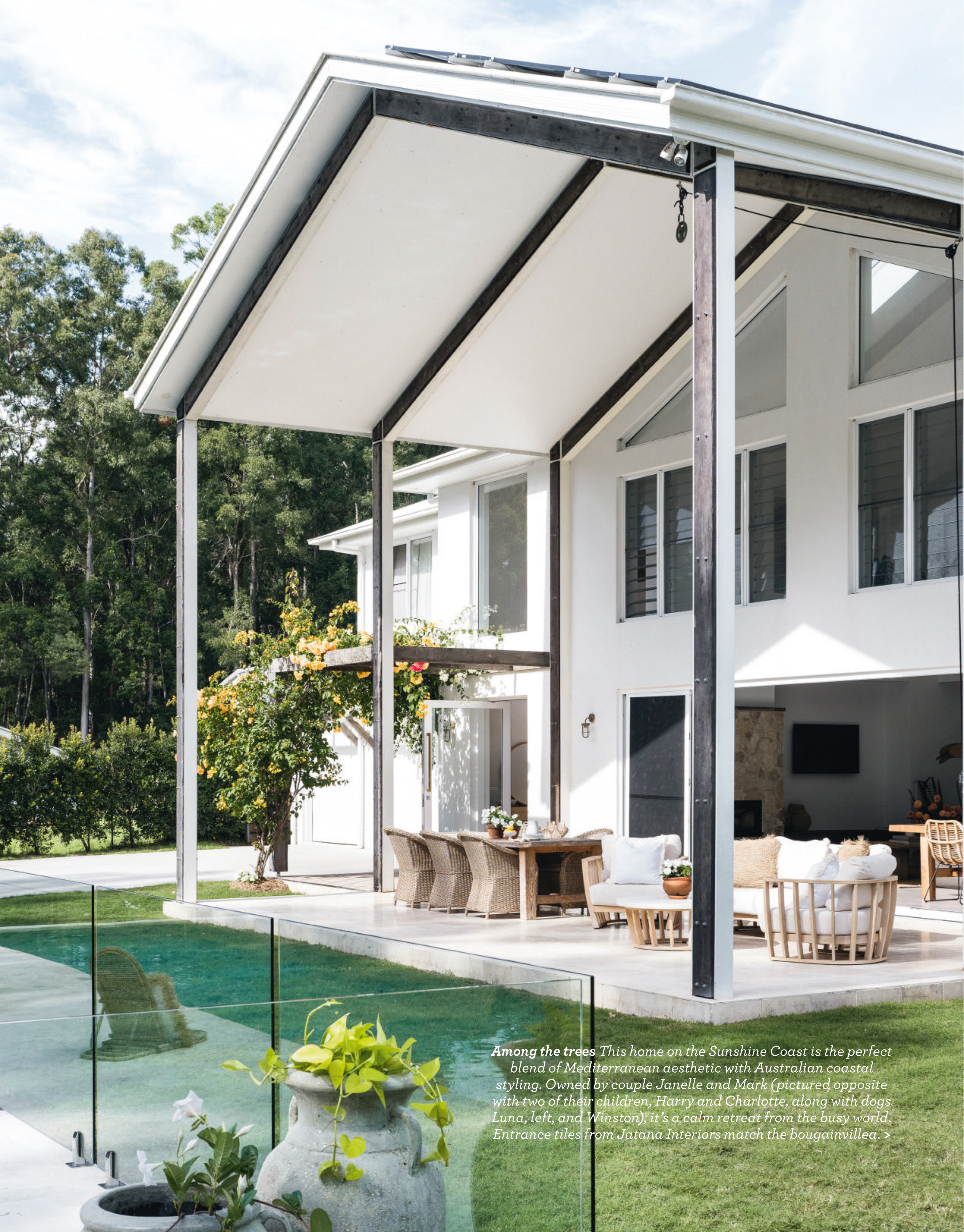
SOURCE BOOK

Architect: *Jon Jacobson, metropolisdesign.co.za.*

UNDER THE SUN

Characterised by summery spaces and timeless texture, this Sunshine Coast build captures the flavour of the Med

STORY **SHELLEY TUSTIN** | STYLING **HAYLEY JENKIN** | PHOTOGRAPHY **HANNAH PUECHMARIN**



Among the trees *This home on the Sunshine Coast is the perfect blend of Mediterranean aesthetic with Australian coastal styling. Owned by couple Janelle and Mark (pictured opposite with two of their children, Harry and Charlotte, along with dogs Luna, left, and Winston), it's a calm retreat from the busy world. Entrance tiles from Jatana Interiors match the bougainvillea.* >

Luminous white render, elegant arches and textured travertine underfoot – though the glittering blue at centre stage comes from the swimming pool and not the Mediterranean Sea, the parallels with the Med are clear in this Sunshine Coast build. For Janelle and her husband Mark, it's a home that borrows from the best bits of Europe and Australia.

Space was the primary motivation behind their move to this enchanted spot. Although they loved their location, in the Sunshine Coast suburb of Bli Bli, with four growing children and an increasing menagerie of pets, they were starting to burst at the seams of their home. "We needed more space, and we wanted the kids to be able to enjoy the outdoors a little bit more," says Janelle. Finding an existing home that met their needs was a challenge and, after looking for two years, it became clear that building from scratch might be the best way to tick every one of their boxes. This three-and-a-half-acre property, straddling developed land and raw bush, popped up as a private sale and when Janelle went to check it out, it was love at first sight. "I stood in the place where our house is now and looked down over our land and heard the birds and wildlife, saw the dam glistening and thought, 'This is it'. It was beautiful."

With their own business, QEBS, a home design and building showroom specialising in kitchens, bathrooms and flooring, Janelle and Mark already had knowledge of the building process. Added to this was the advantage of working with a trusted crew, as they enlisted close friends Dall Designer Homes to drive the home from concept to completion. "We worked alongside them to come up with the build and they oversaw it. Then we put in the fixtures and the kitchen," says Janelle.

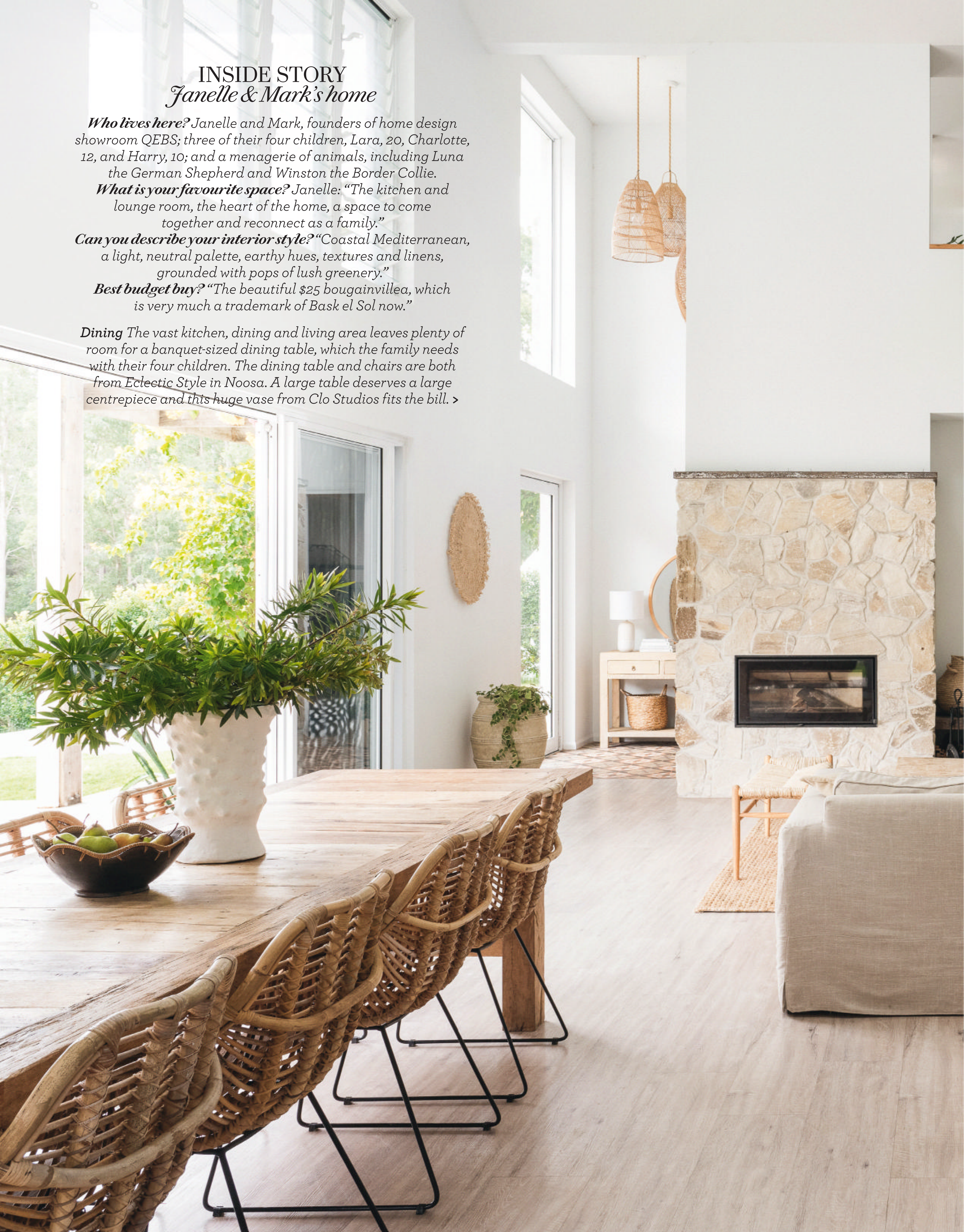
Janelle had a coherent vision from the outset. "The look and the energy we wanted was coastal because we love that aesthetic. But then I love the Mediterranean and Europe as places I've always been inspired by, so we wanted to bring that in with a European farmhouse vibe, using the reclaimed timber, terracotta and travertine tiles, arches and render," says Janelle.

An abundance of texture brings warmth and incomparable character to the new build, with something to admire in every visual frame. Having been persuaded to hire out the home as a location for photo shoots (@bask.el_sol), Janelle says it's been wonderful to see the joy their carefully crafted space can bring. "It's been a beautiful little thing for our home, sharing it with people who have been able to use it to create beautiful images."

HB ***For more stunning homes, visit www.homebeautiful.com.au.***

Entrance *Patterned tiles from Jatana Interiors flow from outside to in, clearly defining the entrance of the home (top left), which is simply furnished with a console from Impreshens. Urn from Rosemount Nursery.* ***Living*** *To create a cosy nook within the vast double-height expanse of the main living (bottom left & opposite), dining and kitchen area, Janelle has grouped a matching pair of Oz Design sofas around a Miss Amara rug and coffee table from Alabaster Trader. The corner of the space has its own defining character, with pops of green in a painting by Jai Vasicek and lush fiddle leaf fig.* >

Dior
IN BLOOM



INSIDE STORY
Janelle & Mark's home

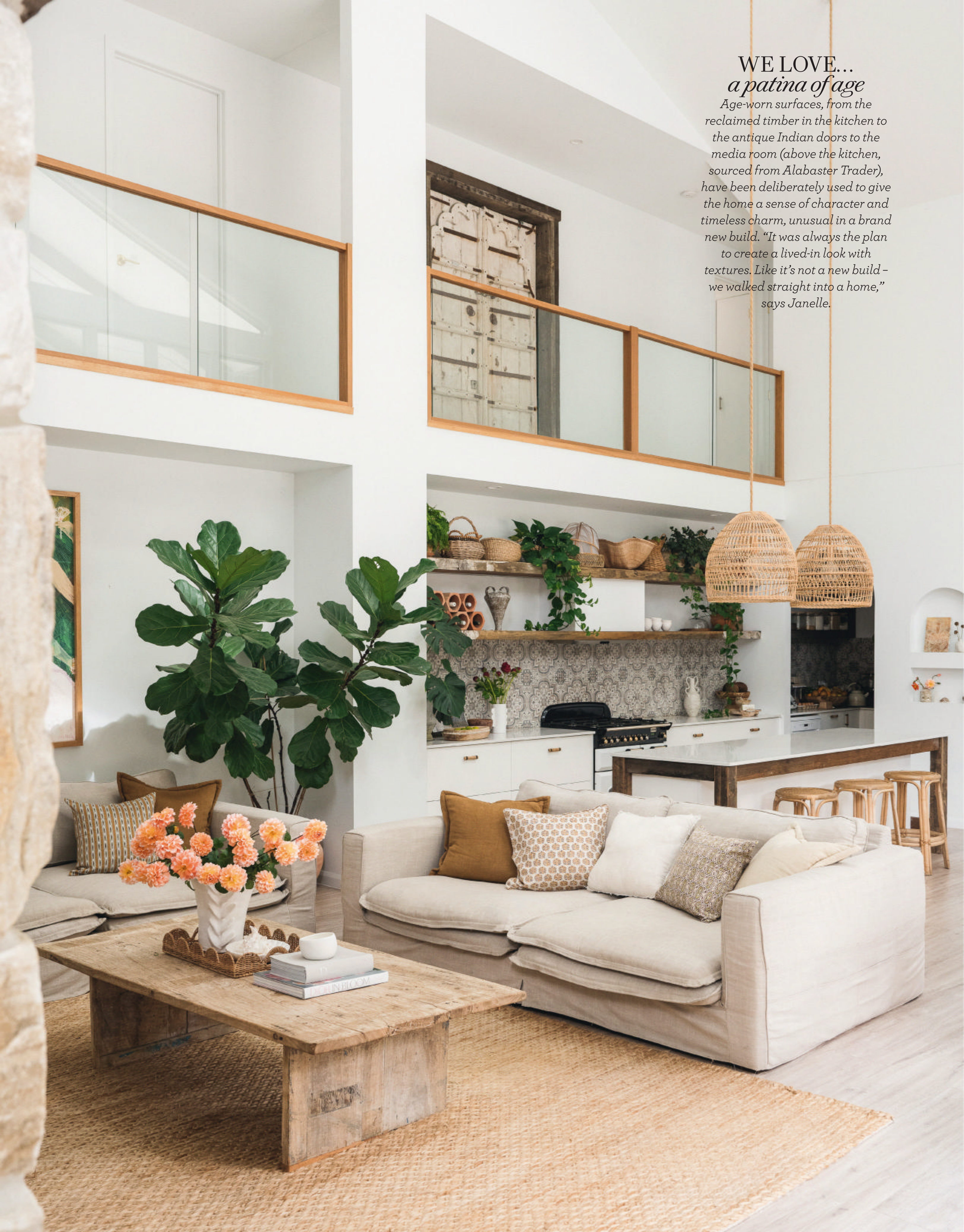
Who lives here? *Janelle and Mark, founders of home design showroom QEBS; three of their four children, Lara, 20, Charlotte, 12, and Harry, 10; and a menagerie of animals, including Luna the German Shepherd and Winston the Border Collie.*
What is your favourite space? *Janelle: "The kitchen and lounge room, the heart of the home, a space to come together and reconnect as a family."*
Can you describe your interior style? *"Coastal Mediterranean, a light, neutral palette, earthy hues, textures and linens, grounded with pops of lush greenery."*
Best budget buy? *"The beautiful $25 bougainvillea, which is very much a trademark of Bask el Sol now."*

Dining *The vast kitchen, dining and living area leaves plenty of room for a banquet-sized dining table, which the family needs with their four children. The dining table and chairs are both from Eclectic Style in Noosa. A large table deserves a large centrepiece and this huge vase from Clo Studios fits the bill.* >

“I WANTED TO HAVE AS MANY WINDOWS AS POSSIBLE, AND A BEAUTIFUL SKY-HIGH CEILING WITH SKY LIGHTS” **JANELLE**

__Kitchen__ The kitchen Janelle designed is strikingly straightforward. “It’s a very simple layout, there’s nothing too fancy,” says Janelle (pictured right). “We don’t have any tapware in the main kitchen, I kept everything tucked away in the butler’s pantry. The island bench is purely for entertaining – I wanted to have nothing hindering it.” Streamlined surfaces – Alpha Zero composite stone from Northcoast Stone and matte cabinetry in Dulux Lexicon Quarter – form a clean backdrop for reclaimed timber shelving and patterned tiles from Jatana Interiors. The tactile charm of rattan is repeated in bar stools from Eclectic Style and pendants from Raw Sunshine Coast. >

PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



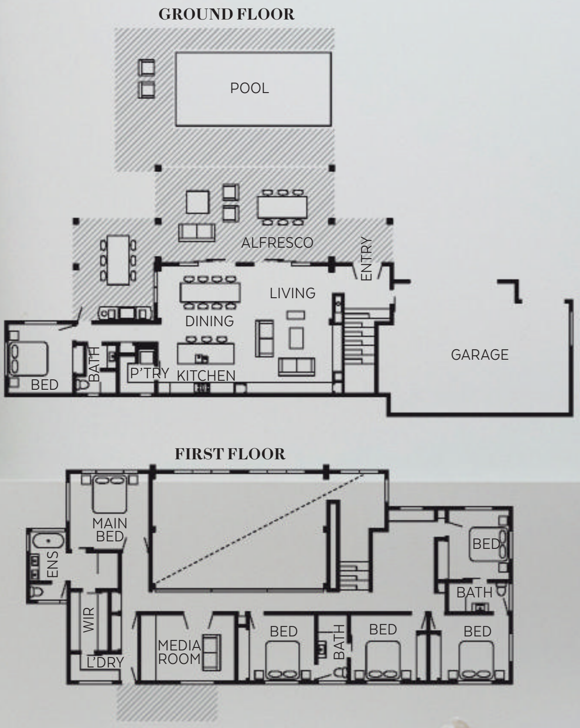
WE LOVE…

a patina of age

Age-worn surfaces, from the reclaimed timber in the kitchen to the antique Indian doors to the media room (above the kitchen, sourced from Alabaster Trader), have been deliberately used to give the home a sense of character and timeless charm, unusual in a brand new build. "It was always the plan to create a lived-in look with textures. Like it's not a new build – we walked straight into a home," says Janelle.

Main bedroom *A framed print from Bed Threads ties together the colours of the bedlinen in the main bedroom (this page), including cushions from H&M, and timber furnishings, such as the Clo Studios bedside table and bench from Alabaster Trader. A 'Mila' lamp from Paola & Joy adds soft curves.* ***Ensuite*** *Subtle brass tones (Nero tapware), timber touches (stool from Lounge Lovers and the pendant was a Facebook Marketplace find) and the terracotta tiles from Jatana Interiors bring texture and warmth to the ensuite bathroom (opposite).* >

FLOOR PLAN


GROUND FLOOR
POOL
ALFRESCO
ENTRY
LIVING
DINING
GARAGE
BED
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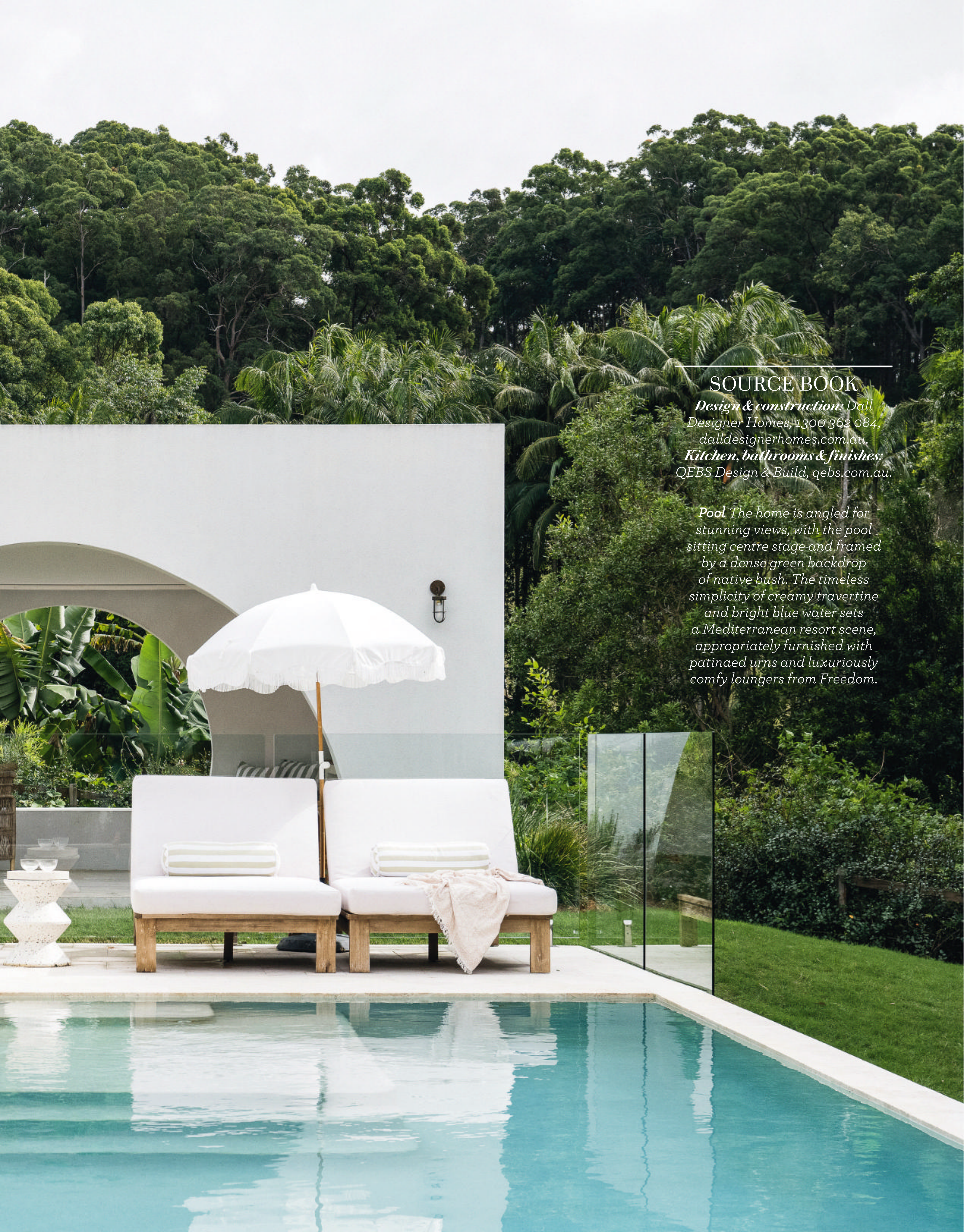
P'TRY
KITCHEN
FIRST FLOOR
MAIN BED
BED
ENS
BATH
WIR
L'DRY
MEDIA ROOM
BED
BATH
BED
BED

“WE WANTED TO
MAKE SOMETHING
UNIQUE, THAT
WE FELT WOULD
BE A BEAUTIFUL
HOME FOR US”

JANELLE

Pool house *With its wide arches, the pool house (this page) is a striking feature within the garden, but also an extra living area. "It's a beautiful spot to relax and unwind," says Janelle.* ***Outdoor area*** *The home's outdoor living spaces are at the front of the building. A large sweep of travertine tiles from Slate & Stone defines the patio area (opposite), which is furnished with a dining table from Eureka Furniture and chairs from Early Settler.* **>**



SOURCE BOOK

Design & construction: *Dall Designer Homes, 1300 362 084, dalldesignerhomes.com.au.* ***Kitchen, bathrooms & finishes:*** *QEBS Design & Build, qebs.com.au.*

Pool *The home is angled for stunning views, with the pool sitting centre stage and framed by a dense green backdrop of native bush. The timeless simplicity of creamy travertine and bright blue water sets a Mediterranean resort scene, appropriately furnished with patinaed urns and luxuriously comfy loungers from Freedom.*

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PHOTOGRAPHY ELOUISE VAN RIET-GRAY STYLING HIGHGATE HOUSE

EMERALD CITY
PAGE 112

Colour masterclass

EMERALD CITY

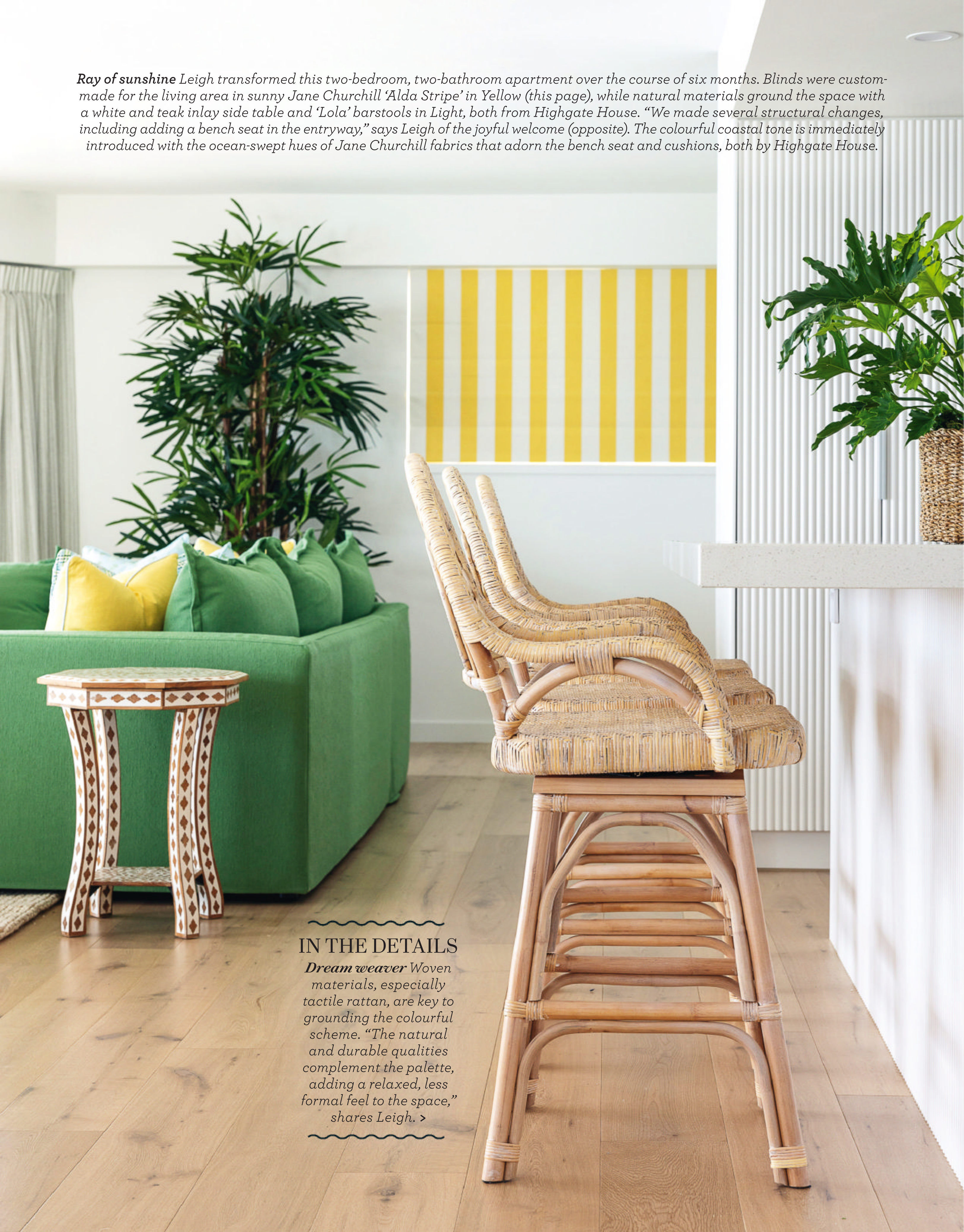
A layered and considered palette infused this Gold Coast apartment with a colourful approach to coastal style

WORDS **BRITTANY SMITH** | STYLING **HIGHGATE HOUSE** | PHOTOGRAPHY **ELOUISE VAN RIET-GRAY**

It's easy to see where this Gold Coast holiday home gets its palette from. For principal designer at Highgate House, Leigh Boswell, inspiration stretched as far as the eye can see with stunning ocean views. "The brief was to create a bright, happy beach apartment that felt family friendly," shares Leigh. "The client wanted a vibrant, coastal-inspired palette that balanced relaxation with energy." Read on for your masterclass in striking the right tone between bold colour and coastal calm.

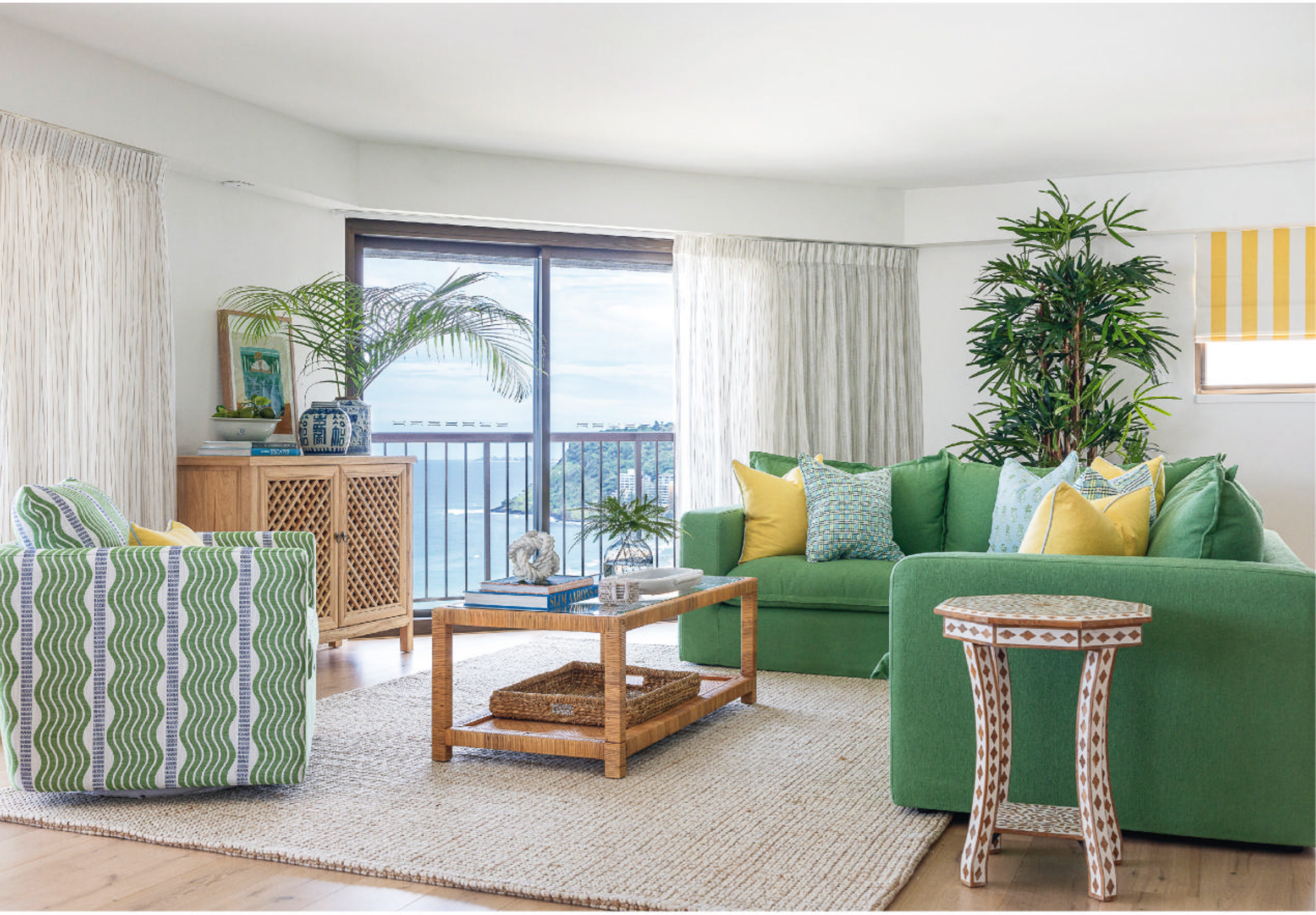
ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

Ray of sunshine *Leigh transformed this two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment over the course of six months. Blinds were custom-made for the living area in sunny Jane Churchill 'Alda Stripe' in Yellow (this page), while natural materials ground the space with a white and teak inlay side table and 'Lola' barstools in Light, both from Highgate House. "We made several structural changes, including adding a bench seat in the entryway," says Leigh of the joyful welcome (opposite). The colourful coastal tone is immediately introduced with the ocean-swept hues of Jane Churchill fabrics that adorn the bench seat and cushions, both by Highgate House.*



IN THE DETAILS

Dream weaver *Woven materials, especially tactile rattan, are key to grounding the colourful scheme. "The natural and durable qualities complement the palette, adding a relaxed, less formal feel to the space," shares Leigh.* >



Start with a neutral base

A calm, muted backdrop is key to avoiding overwhelm within a colourful palette. "Use light, airy neutrals as your foundation," suggests Leigh, who did that here. "The white backdrop allows the colourful accents to stand out, creating a space that feels uplifting and grounded in nature." Walls painted in Dulux White Polar Quarter let the ocean views take centrestage, while light Stone Ambassador benchtops in 'Sugar Rush' complement the open-plan scheme.

Introduce pops of colour

This home goes beyond the standard blue and white nautical palette, incorporating other bold hues inspired by its sea-swept vistas. "We chose three colours to evoke a fresh coastal vibe," explains Leigh. "Green adds a sense of tranquillity, while blue brings a calming energy to the space. Yellow was included as a cheerful accent, infusing warmth." The Molmic 'Daydream' sofa, decorated with an abundance of cushions, adds fresh vibrancy to the space.

Add texture with natural elements

"Balance the bold colours with earthy textures like rattan and natural timbers," says Leigh. "This adds warmth and an organic touch, bringing in a relaxed, beachy vibe." In this home, engineered 'Prestige Oak' hardwood flooring from National Flooring Distributors adds tonal warmth. Woven materials appear throughout – from the seagrass tray on the rattan-wrapped 'Legend' coffee table to the 'Classic Weave' dining chairs – all from Highgate House.

Play with pattern for visual interest

Stripes are a playful motif found throughout the interior. However, some examples are more subtle than others. The ribbed profiles of the kitchen joinery and island introduce a touch of texture, complemented by the vertically-laid Tile Mob splashback tiles. Nearby, the armchair is upholstered in a custom Schumacher fabric reminiscent of waves, while the striped blinds offer a bolder take on the theme. "These patterns bring in energy and visual interest," says Leigh.

> *"The colours create a vibrant and harmonious atmosphere that enhances the coastal aesthetic"*
>
> **LEIGH BOSWELL, INTERIOR DESIGNER**

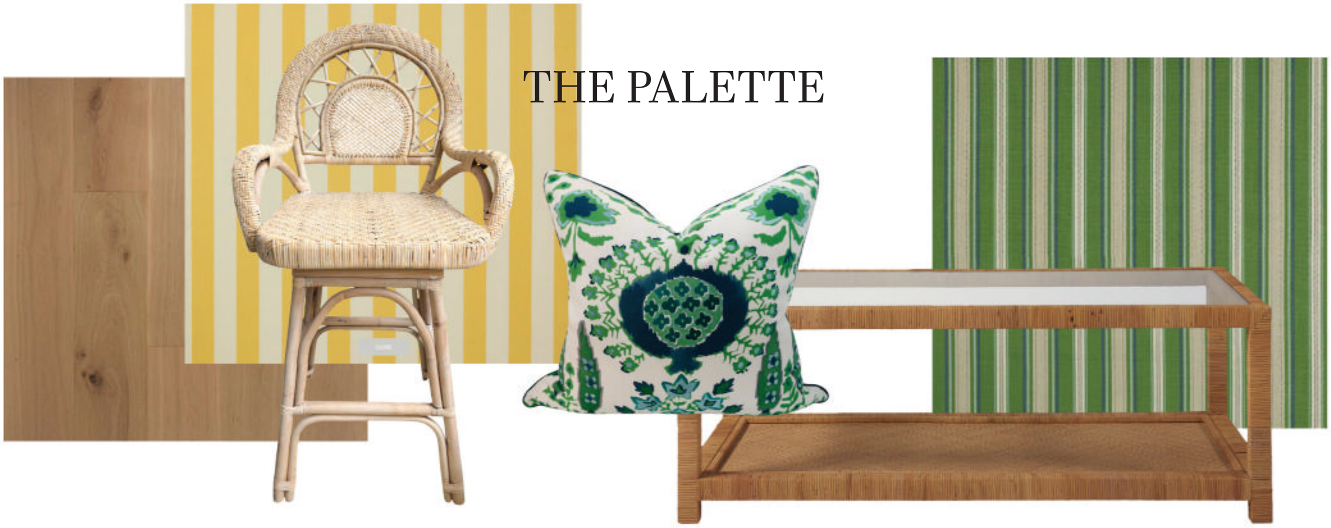
White stripes *The splashback benefits from vertically-laid Tile Mob tiles with rectified edges and pillow top profiles, which complement the ribbed kitchen joinery (right). Yolan Eke's 'Afterwards We Ate Pizza' print, available through Greenhouse Interiors, adorns the open-plan dining area (bottom, left & right). Below it is a tactile cabinet offering overflow storage (for similar, try 'Dawn' carved cabinet from Living Styles). Blues and greens are introduced in the ginger jars and the abundant greenery in the dining space, while large focal pieces colourblock the living area (opposite). The Molmic sofa, upholstered in Westbury Textiles 'Nassau' in Forest, is decorated with custom cushions in a bright mix of Clarke & Clarke, Molly Mahon and Schumacher fabrics. The intricately crafted Highgate House side table adds texture against the neutral area rug.* >

AN ENTERTAINING STORY
VERANDA ESCAPES

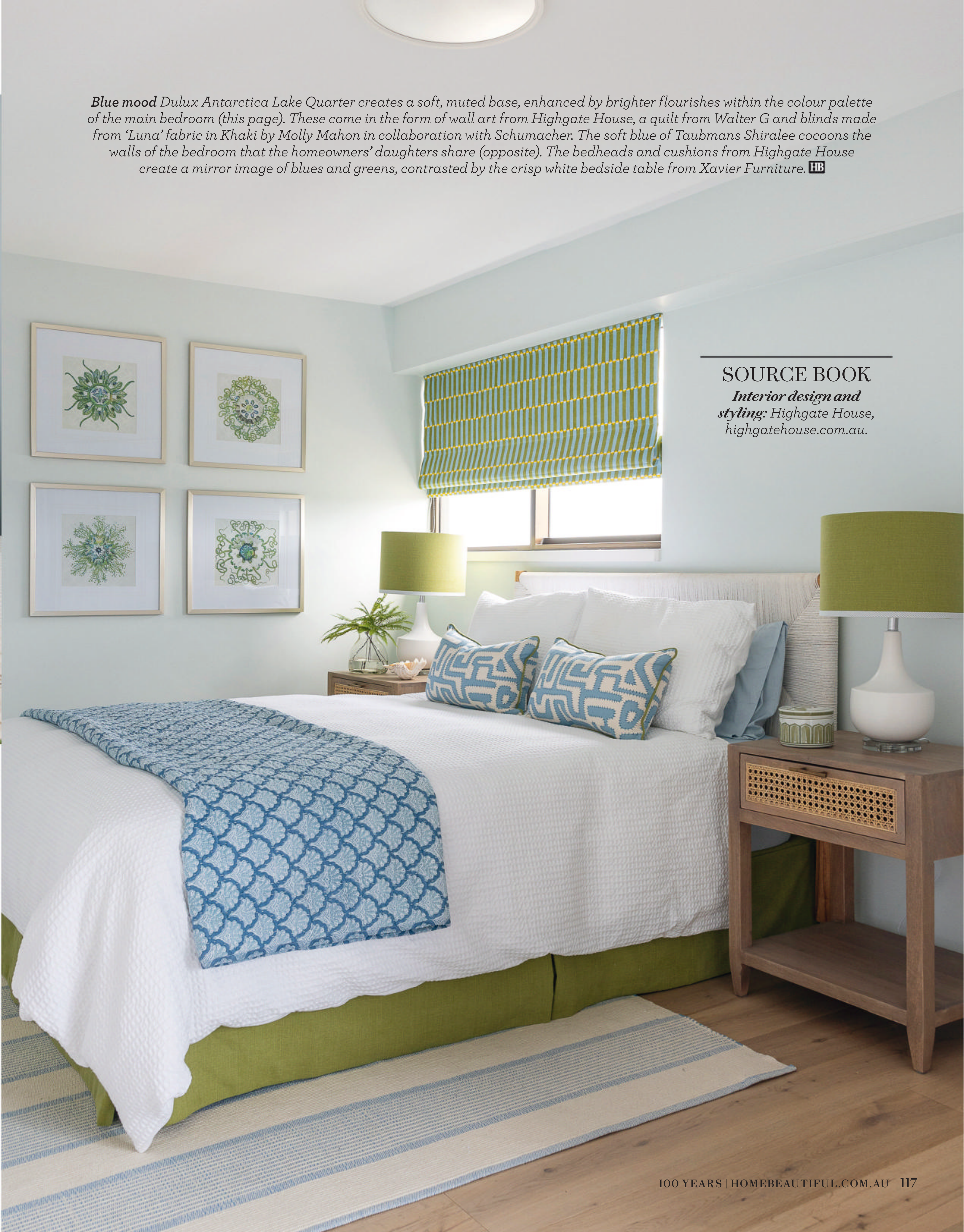
STYLE NOTES

Soft shell *This bedroom belongs to the homeowners' two teenage daughters. Leigh was playful here, opting for fun wall decor in the form of woven crabs from Highgate House. It's a more literal yet youthful approach to the home's coastal palette.*

THE PALETTE



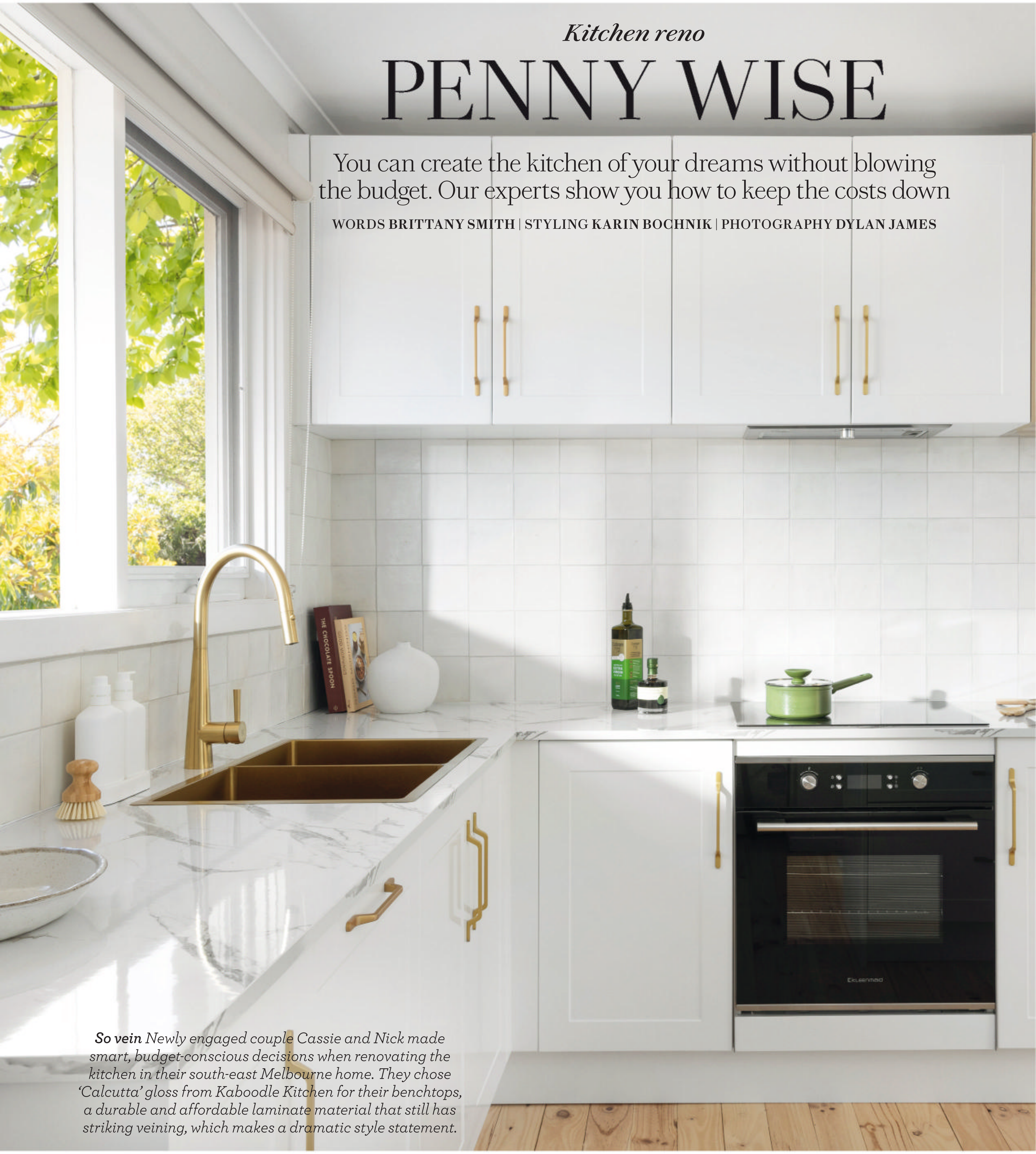
From left *Plantino 'Merrified' engineered oak* ***flooring*** *in Portofino, from $107.75/sqm, Choices Flooring. Jane Churchill 'Alda Stripe'* ***fabric*** *in Yellow, $220/m, Domus Textiles. 'Lola'* ***bar stool*** *in Light, $565, Highgate House. Green & Blue motif* ***cushion****, $385/55cm x 55cm, Highgate House. 'Legend'* ***coffee table****, $1965, Highgate House. Jane Churchill 'Tango Stripe'* ***fabric*** *in Green, $440/m, Domus Textiles.*



Blue mood *Dulux Antarctica Lake Quarter creates a soft, muted base, enhanced by brighter flourishes within the colour palette of the main bedroom (this page). These come in the form of wall art from Highgate House, a quilt from Walter G and blinds made from 'Luna' fabric in Khaki by Molly Mahon in collaboration with Schumacher. The soft blue of Taubmans Shiralee cocoons the walls of the bedroom that the homeowners' daughters share (opposite). The bedheads and cushions from Highgate House create a mirror image of blues and greens, contrasted by the crisp white bedside table from Xavier Furniture.*

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design and styling: *Highgate House, highgatehouse.com.au.*



Kitchen reno

PENNY WISE

You can create the kitchen of your dreams without blowing the budget. Our experts show you how to keep the costs down

WORDS **BRITTANY SMITH** | STYLING **KARIN BOCHNIK** | PHOTOGRAPHY **DYLAN JAMES**

So vein *Newly engaged couple Cassie and Nick made smart, budget-conscious decisions when renovating the kitchen in their south-east Melbourne home. They chose 'Calcutta' gloss from Kaboodle Kitchen for their benchtops, a durable and affordable laminate material that still has striking veining, which makes a dramatic style statement.*

10K
RENO
SERIES

BUILDER'S TIP

"My top pick for a splashback on a budget is classic white subway tiles. They're affordable and timeless," says Rachael. "Another option is a semi-exterior grade VJ panel/sheet. Finish it with washable paint to create a beautiful, tile-free look." Check with your supplier that it's suitable for kitchen use.

It's no secret that kitchens suffer through the rigours of daily use. But with costs easily snowballing, kitchen renovations are often left in the 'too hard' basket. This doesn't need to be the case! We spoke to builder and Front Porch Properties founder Rachael Turner and John Harrison, Kaboodle Kitchen marketing manager, who shared their secrets to managing a kitchen reno for less than $10K.

CABINETRY

What are the options? If your cabinetry is in good shape and the layout is functional, keep the carcasses and paint the doors to create a big impact for less. Alternatively, Kaboodle Kitchen has a range of doors, panels and designer-look handles, allowing you to refresh the facades completely. "DIY installation is a fantastic way to save both time and money," adds John. Want to redo your cabinets? "Opt for open shelves instead of overhead cupboards," suggests Rachael, who adds that open shelves cost less and look sleek in compact spaces.

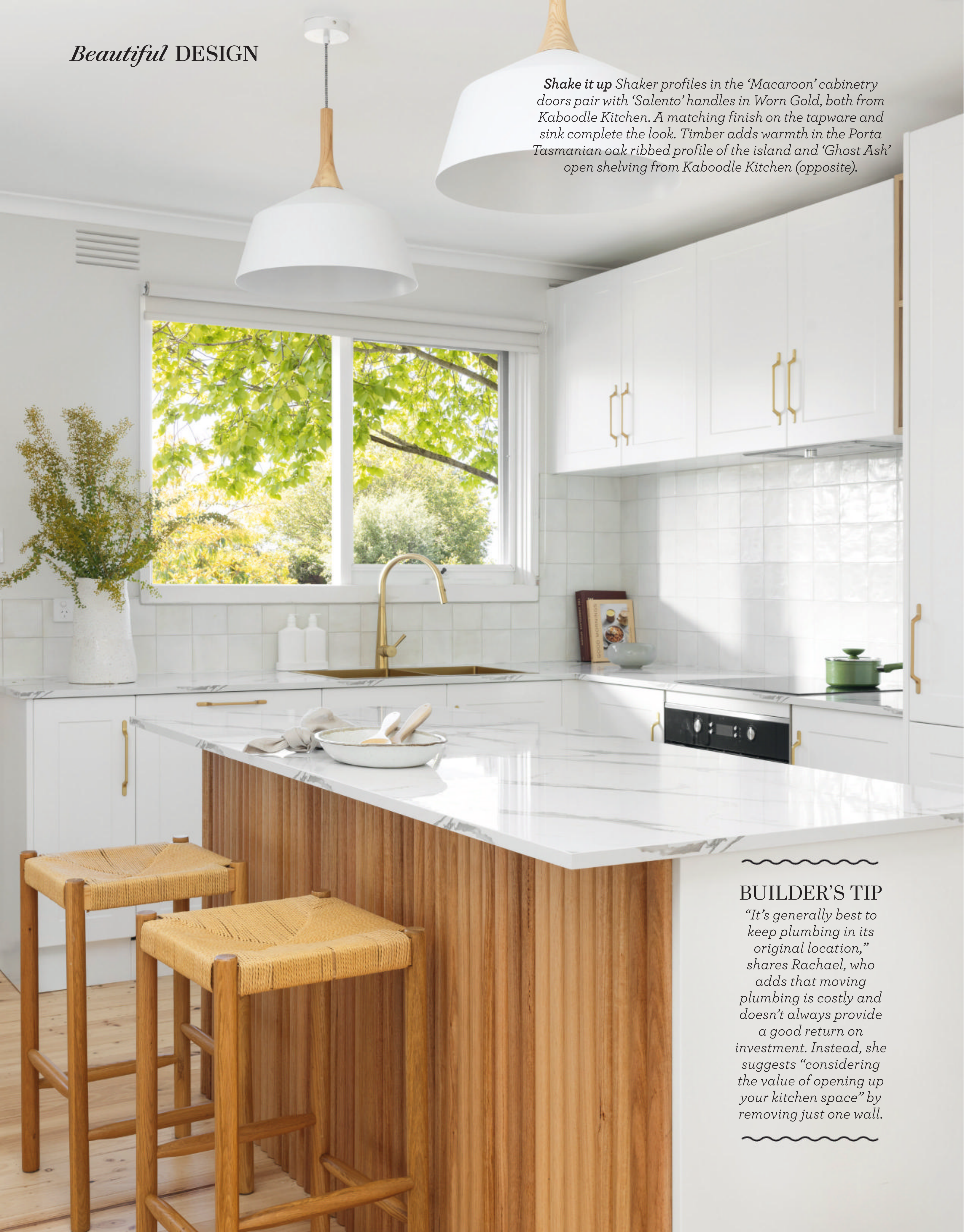
Estimated cost: $4000+

BENCHTOPS & SPLASHBACKS

What are the options? Laminate is a great way to save money. "Opting for a neutral colour or a classic woodgrain top can instantly refresh any kitchen," advises Rachael. "You can then add personality and character through your choice of splashback." John agrees, adding that laminate benchtops can give you "the look of stone or timber with a more durable finish for a lot less." He recommends ceramic tiles for a show-stopping splashback, whether in a bright colour, playful pattern or classic white.

Estimated cost: Laminate ranges from $200–$400/per m, while engineered stone typically starts at $600/per m. Ceramic tiles start at $30/sqm but can reach $250/sqm. >

Who lives here? *Engaged couple, Cassie and Nick.*
Location? *South-east Melbourne.*
Original kitchen? *An original 1970s dark wood grain L-shape kitchen with minimal storage, no pantry and narrow bench space.*
Timeframe? *Less than four weeks.*
The works: *"We love to cook and entertain so when planning our kitchen renovation we prioritised plenty of prep space and a large island to entertain friends and family. We were also desperate for more storage so big drawers and a large pantry were essential so that we had a well organised and functional kitchen."*



Shake it up *Shaker profiles in the 'Macaroon' cabinetry doors pair with 'Salento' handles in Worn Gold, both from Kaboodle Kitchen. A matching finish on the tapware and sink complete the look. Timber adds warmth in the Porta Tasmanian oak ribbed profile of the island and 'Ghost Ash' open shelving from Kaboodle Kitchen (opposite).*

BUILDER'S TIP

"It's generally best to keep plumbing in its original location," shares Rachael, who adds that moving plumbing is costly and doesn't always provide a good return on investment. Instead, she suggests "considering the value of opening up your kitchen space" by removing just one wall.

"Choose DIY-friendly flatpack cabinetry and install as much of it yourself to significantly save compared to custom-built options" **JOHN HARRISON, KABOODLE KITCHEN**

HARDWARE & TAPWARE

What are the options? "Updating your kitchen with new hardware and tapware is one of the quickest and most affordable ways to refresh the space," says Rachael. "For a cohesive look, match your tapware finish with your hardware." Many hardware and kitchen companies offer all hardware needed in a kitchen, from larger items like handles, pulls and knobs to the often forgotten hinges and runners. Kaboodle Kitchen offers many finishes, such as matte black, matte white, stainless steel, brass, gold and nickel. "Choose the best within your budget," suggests Rachael. As these fixtures get heavy daily use, it's worth investing in durable, high-quality options. Another money-saving benefit of updating kitchen handles is that you can easily remove and install these yourself, avoiding additional tradesperson costs. ***Estimated cost:*** $100-$600 for tapware, $100-$300 for handles.

APPLIANCES

What are the options? Buy the best appliances you can afford but limit the number to the bare essentials. "It's worth splurging on a high-quality cooker or durable dishwasher as these are your everyday workhorses," says Rachael. While integrated appliances look seamless, the cost is significant, and even more so if they need to be replaced. ***Estimated cost:*** $500–$8000 per appliance.

LIGHTING

What are the options? You can make a difference to the look of your kitchen by upating your existing pendants or adding new ones. "Basic yet stylish light fittings are available affordably at Bunnings or Beacon Lighting," says Rachael. "Installing these above your island can completely transform the look." Beware: rewiring is an additional cost. ***Estimated cost:*** $100-$600 per fixture.

GUTTER CREDIT **TEXTA NARROW BOLD**

CREATE A ZEN DEN

Start the new year by designing a cocoon-like wellness space for workouts, rest or play, on any budget.

WORDS HANNA MARTON

Well grounded *Dedicated home wellness spaces are rising in popularity, according to interior designers. This Laminex design, featuring Platypus Natural surfaces, shows you can create considered and beautiful wellness spaces.*

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF LAMINEX *PRICE BASED ON EXCHANGE RATE AT TIME OF PRINTING

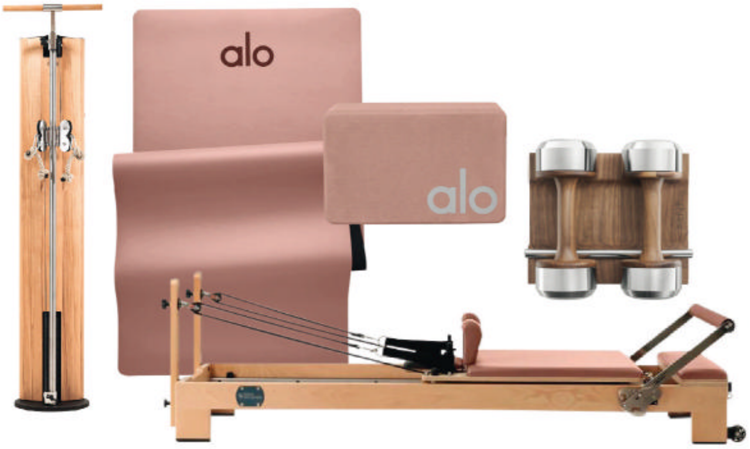
Zen den, calm corner, man cave or she shed… whatever you call them, wellness zones are suddenly *de rigueur*. "Our clients are increasingly interested in dedicated areas for wellness activities such as saunas, ice baths and gym workouts," says Mariah Burton, Folk Studio co-founder and interior designer. "This shift reflects that people are prioritising their physical and mental health."

If you're coveting a wellness space, the first step is to establish what you'll be doing in it. Is it for yoga or meditation? Reading? Cold plunge? Then, figure out how much space you'll need, and if you're renovating or planning a home from scratch, the world is your zinc-rich oyster. Of course, your own private health hub needn't be elaborate, says Mariah. "You just need a calm space that you love spending time in."

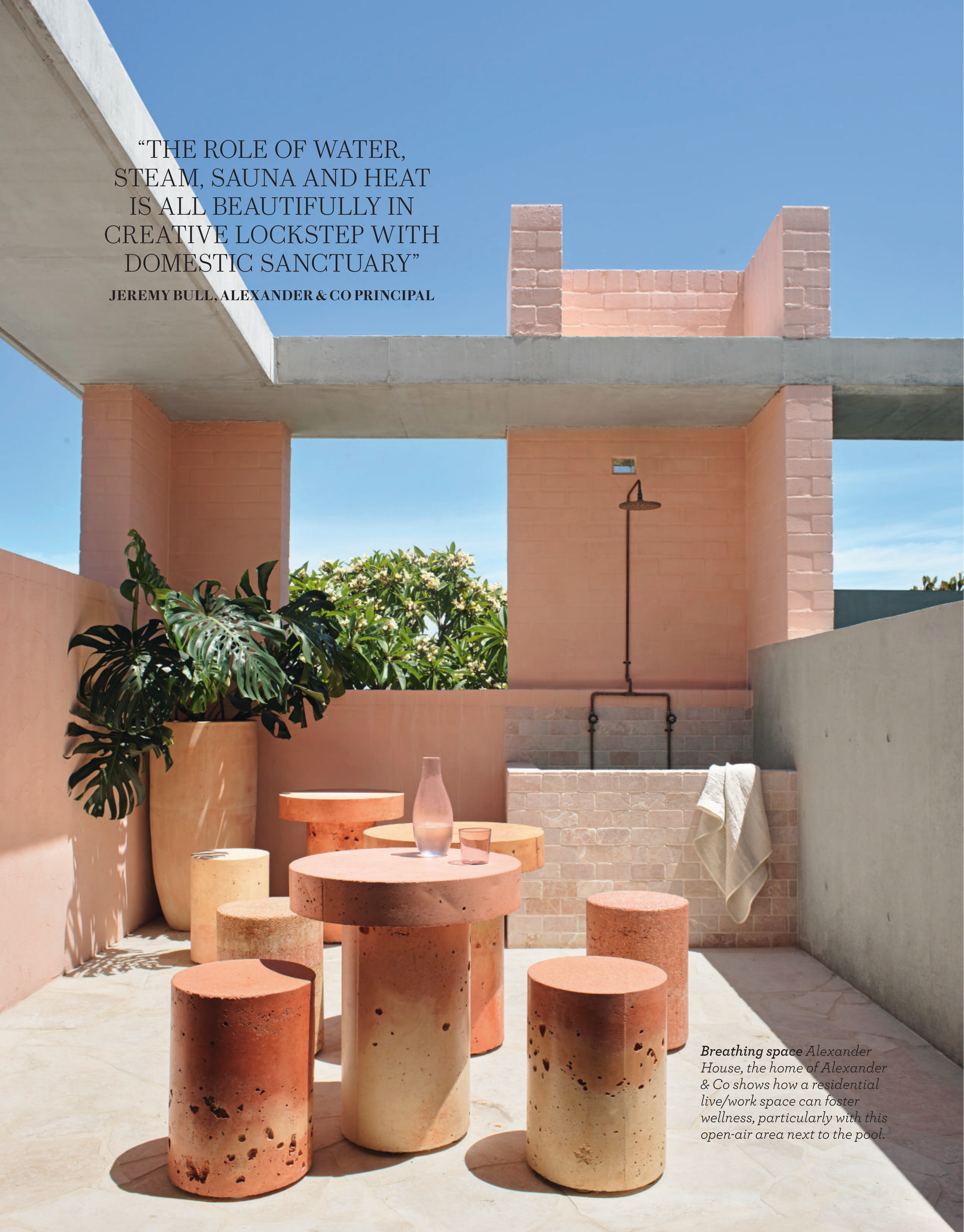
Fit for purpose

Whether comprised of a few dumbbells, a Peloton treadmill, weights machines or all of the above, home gyms are a game-changer. Sam Wood, founder of fitness and nutrition program, 28 By Sam Wood, is a fan of cable machines, which use a space-saving system of weights and pulleys to strengthen your whole body. "They're versatile, so you get bang for your buck," says Sam. Technogym's compact, stylish 'Kinesis Personal' cable machine is a good option, as is Nohrd's SlimBeam.

When it comes to your fitness space, flooring that's both comfortable and hardy is crucial, especially if you're (gently) dropping free weights on the floor. "For a room that's more wellness-centred, timber floorboards or Bolon are fantastic," advises Amanda Boyle, spokesperson for Technogym, which offers an interior design service. "For performance-oriented spaces we recommend virgin rubber to absorb sound." Sustainably sourced cork is another option, suggests architect Melanie Beynon. >



Left to right: *SlimBeam* ***cable machine*** *in Cherry, $3199, Nohrd. 'Warrior'* ***mat*** *in Smoky Quartz, $220, Alo. 'Colmia'* ***dumbbells*** *with wooden stand, around $400*/for pair, Pent. 'YR Studio'* ***reformer****, $4195, Your Reformer.*



“THE ROLE OF WATER, STEAM, SAUNA AND HEAT IS ALL BEAUTIFULLY IN CREATIVE LOCKSTEP WITH DOMESTIC SANCTUARY”

JEREMY BULL, ALEXANDER & CO PRINCIPAL

Breathing space *Alexander House, the home of Alexander & Co shows how a residential live/work space can foster wellness, particularly with this open-air area next to the pool.*

Hit refresh *The greenery around this Artedomus bath further enhances the wellness benefits.*

Sweat it out *At-home, infrared saunas, like this one from Luxo Living, can be cost-effective.*

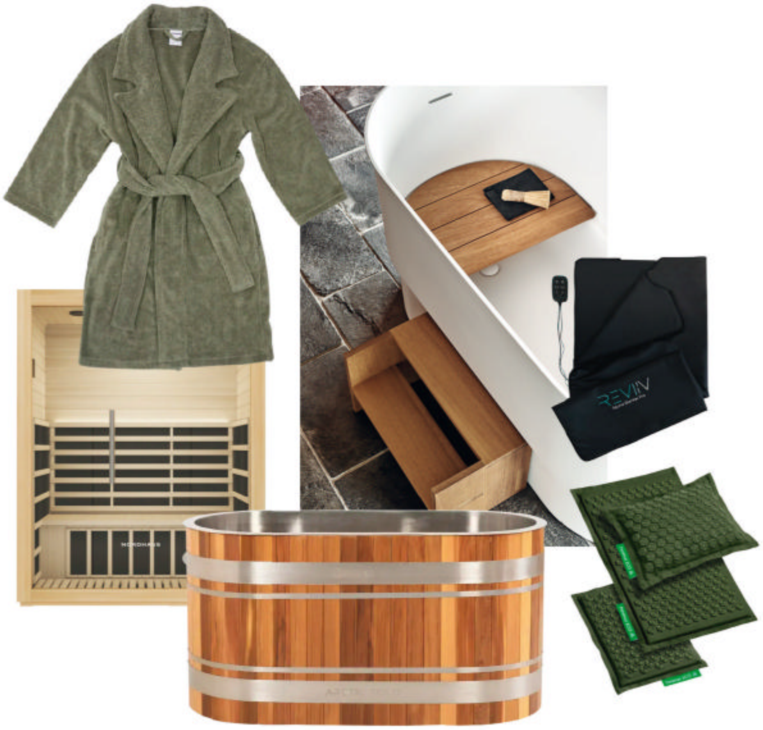
FOUND SPACE

Take the temperature

Not just a TikTok trend, ice baths have purportedly been around since Ancient Greece and may improve post-exercise recovery, reduce inflammation and pain, and bolster mental fitness. From DIY cold plunges in the bathtub to economic inflatable ice baths to permanent cedar-and-stainless-steel jobs, ice baths are everywhere.

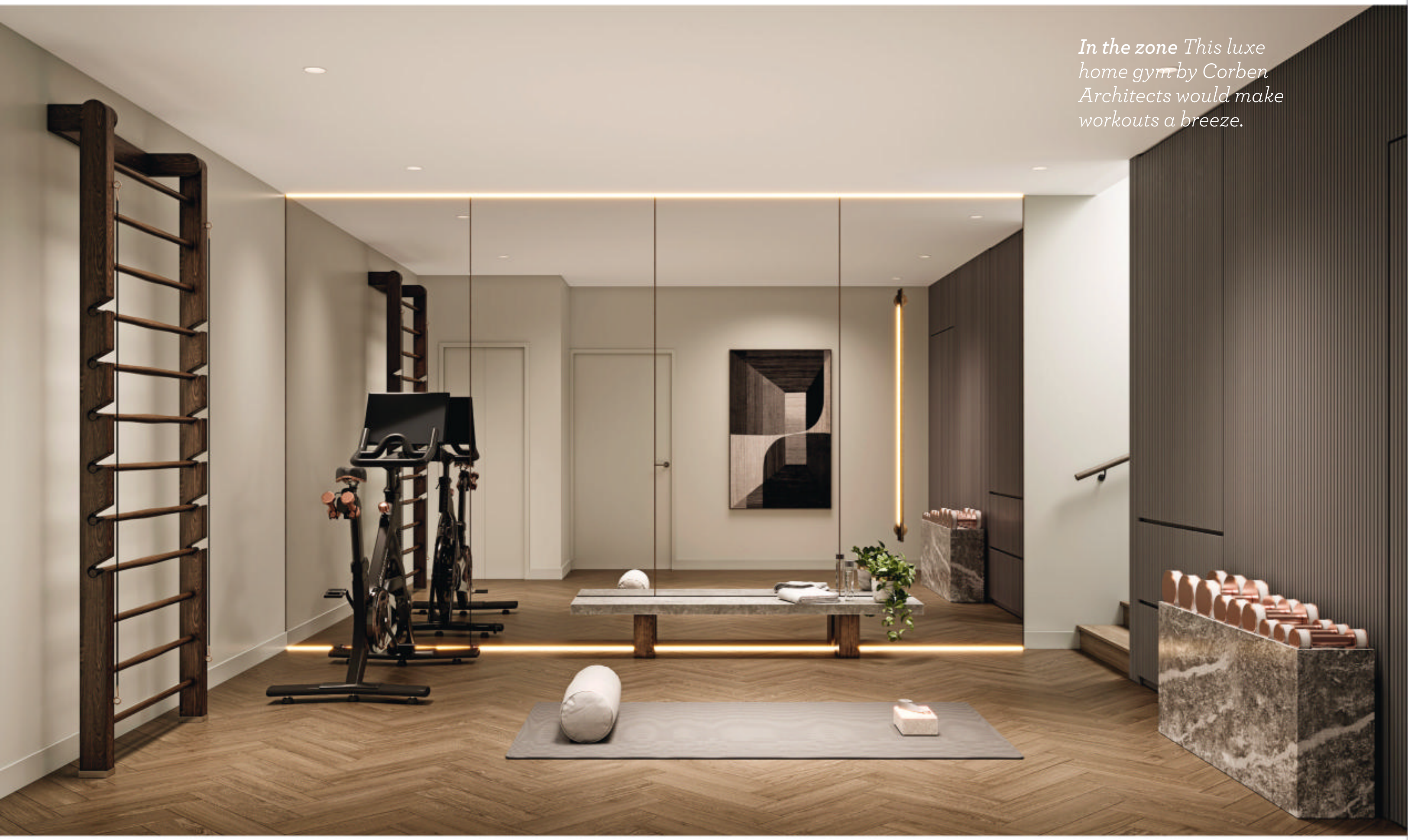
More of a heat-seeking wellness warrior? Consider adding a sauna to your Zen den. "For health-conscious people who don't want to pay exorbitant spa fees, having a home sauna ends up being more cost-effective in the long run," explains Winston Tu, Luxo Living founder. Infrared saunas are a popular alternative to traditional steamy saunas, which use infrared light to comfortably heat the body and operate at lower temperatures. "Infrared saunas consume less energy," says Winston. "They're also easier to install because they only require a standard outlet." Traditional saunas, he adds, are still great if you have the space, and budget for professional wiring.

"Between [my wife] Snezana and I, we use an infrared sauna at home at least 10 times a week," shares Sam. "It is an investment… but you can hop straight from the sauna to the shower to work." Can't swing a sauna? Browse Amazon for affordable infrared sauna blankets. >

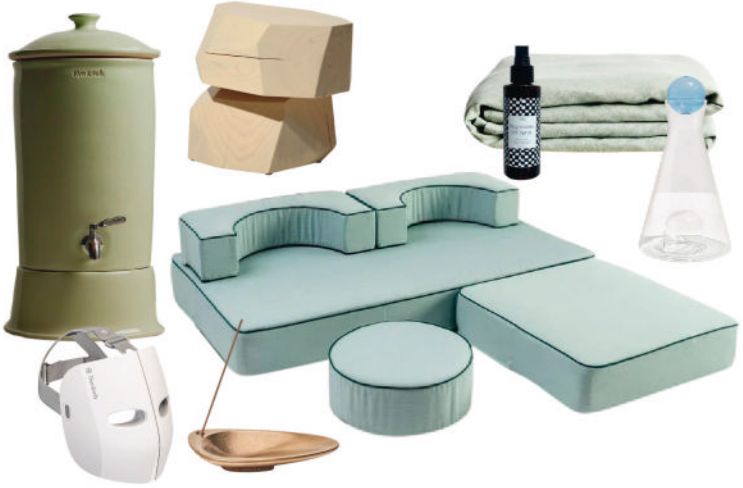


Left to right: *Three-person infrared* ***sauna****, $3900, Nordhaus.* ***Robe*** *in Sage, $129, Hommey. 'Arctic'* ***ice bath*** *in Cedar, $7999, Revel. 'Agape' immersion* ***bath****, Artedomus. Reviiv infrared* ***sauna blanket****, $660, Amazon. 'Full Body Original'* ***massage set*** *(includes mat, pillow and mini mat), $420, Pranamat Eco.*

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT) ANDREA FERRARI (OPPOSITE) ANSON SMART STYLING (OPPOSITE) CLAIRE DELMAR



In the zone *This luxe home gym by Corben Architects would make workouts a breeze.*



Left to right: *Ceramic* ***water filter*** *in Pistachio, $450, Kyn & Folk. Therabody 'Theraface'* ***LED mask****, $899, David Jones. United Strangers 'Boulder'* ***side table****, $690, Trit. Modular* ***pillow stack*** *in Rivie Green, $1499, Business & Pleasure. Aesop* ***incense holder*** *in Bronze, $193, Myer. Linen* ***throw*** *in Sage, $220, Bed Threads. Cici Sleep Magnesium Oil* ***spray****, $32/150ml, Hardtofind. 'Vice Versa'* ***carafe*** *in Clear + Blue, $149, Fazeek.*

Sensory experience

Regardless of its size, Mariah says the design secrets to a tranquil wellness space include: a neutral base colour; harmonious accent colours; a statement feature; mixed textures; and a signature scent. "I like to incorporate a diffuser, room spray and candle that all have the same fragrance," she says. Personal touches, such as woven baskets, robes, patterned towels and water carafes add texture, she adds, and opting for plants instead of busy artwork helps foster a connection to nature.

Natural light is key, asserts Melanie, while layers of artificial light can evoke the right mood in darker spaces. Use LED strips in coves, behind mirrors or to highlight rendered walls or textural features. "In my home, for example, I created a space with LED lighting recessed into the floor, which 'washes' up a timber-lined wall. When the lights are dialled right down, it provides a nice, honey-toned glow," Melanie says. Additional lamps, wall lights or pendants offer task lighting and boost the ambience, she adds.

Mindful book nooks

Wellness spaces aren't just for sweat sessions. Personal library curator Lucy Pearson suggests creating a reading nook or mini 'wellness library'. You'll need a comfortable reading chair or cushioned seating — check out Business & Pleasure's modular pillow stack — blankets, a side table, ideally an adjustable reading lamp and, naturally, books. They should look good, too. "Colour-coding books gets a bad rap, but for a tranquil reading space, muted tones are essential," explains Lucy. "I favour book covers in off-whites, sage greens, pale blues and dusty pinks." Aim to make your wellness nook a tech-free zone, keeping phones and screens out of sight and mind.

WELL-READ

Unwind in your wellness space with these books, as recommended by bibliotherapist and The Lit Edit founder, Lucy Pearson

'In the Garden': Essays on Nature and Growing by Various, Daunt Books.

'Enchantment' by Katherine May, Allen & Unwin.

'The Keys to Kindness' by Claudia Hammond, Allen & Unwin.

'Walk with Your Wolf' by Jonathan Hoban, Hachette.

'Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art' by James Nestor, Penguin Books. HB

Book nook *A relaxing reading space is as simple as a cosy chair in a quiet corner.*

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) KRISTINA SOLJO

Buyer's guide

TAKE IT OUTSIDE

Two's company *Greg Natale created the perfect pairing in this alfresco lounge, with two coffee tables and four chairs.*

Go all out and embrace summer with advice from the experts on the best stylish and durable outdoor furniture

WORDS **BRITTANY SMITH**

We love our sunburnt country. Unlike some parts of the world, which are blanketed in snow for months on end, most of the nation gets to enjoy our outdoor spaces year-round (although sometimes heating is needed). With such excellent conditions, it makes sense that the furniture we use outside is just as important to the look of our home as any indoor piece.

As interior designer Katie Sargent explains, "Indoor-outdoor connections are very popular, with your alfresco space almost an extension of your interior space". But there are a number of points you need to consider before you head to the shops and start investing in a new suite of furniture. Read on for all the important details that will help you create your dream outdoor oasis at home.

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **ANSON SMART** (OPPOSITE) **LOUISE ROCHE**
STYLING (THIS PAGE) **GREG NATALE** (OPPOSITE) **KYLIE JACKES**

***Dawn to dusk** Brick, timber and white set the scene in this airy outdoor kitchen and lounge by Ali Griffiths Interiors.*

> *"Choose outdoor designs that are easy to maintain. Look for removable covers and fabrics designed for machine washing"*
> **DOMINIC HARRISON, KING LIVING**

In the zone

There are many types of 'rooms' you can create in your outdoor area, depending on the size and scale you are working with. Alfresco living, dining and entertaining spaces are the most popular, but you can also get a bit more creative. "I love little unexpected zones," shares Katie. "A table and chairs for two, or a lounger or armchair in a secluded zone in the garden to take advantage of the light or view at a particular time of day." >

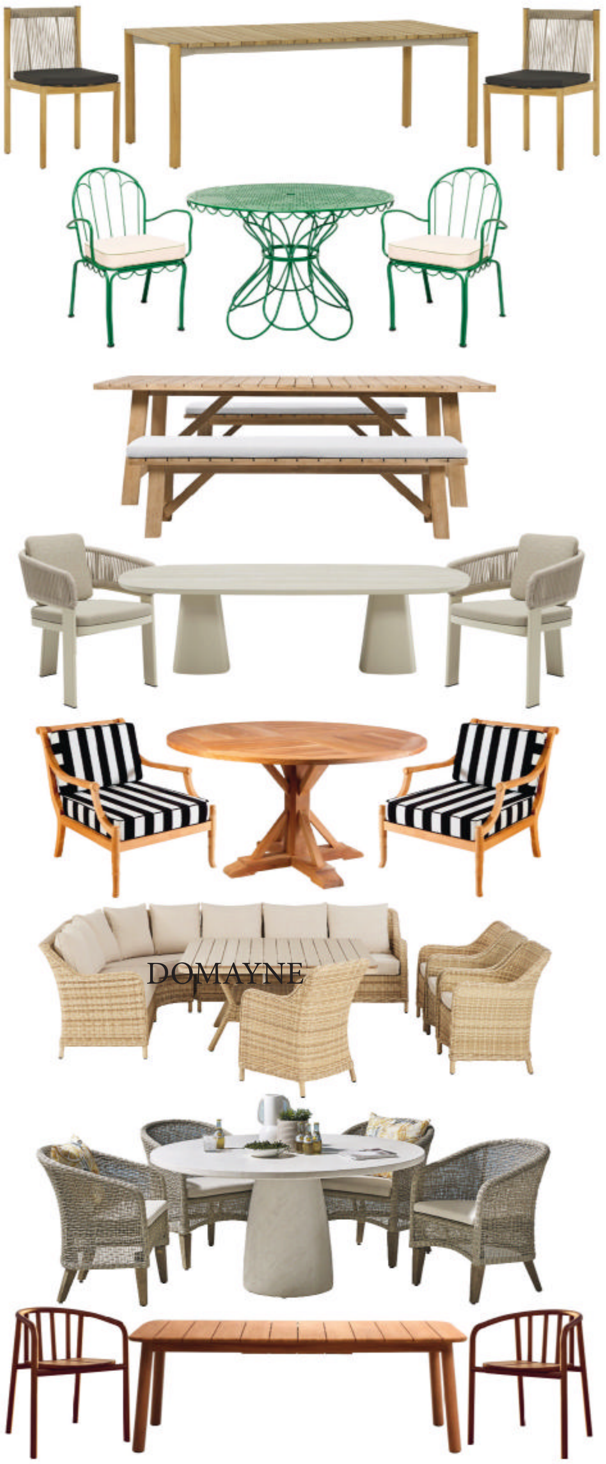
Fit for a king The chic 'Plateau' outdoor sofa in Gumtree from King Living has backrests that can be repositioned for comfort.

MATERIAL MATTERS

Australia's climate is diverse and seasonal, creating different material requirements for outdoor furniture. Those in humid climates should be mindful of rust and mould, while those living in more arid areas need to think about how harsh the sun can be. Another weather concern is wind. "Look at the weight of the items," suggests Simone Sarson, manager at Xavier Furniture. "A wrought iron chair in a windy location could be a good solution, as opposed to a lightweight chair."

There are many durable material options. "Outdoor furniture frames can be made of timber, rattan, plastic, fibreglass and powder-coated steel or aluminium, just to name a few," shares Katie. "Timber is great, giving you a natural, classic and warm feel, but it will generally need maintenance. Powder-coated aluminium is hardy and lightweight." King Living makes use of powder-coated engineered steel frames. "This is complemented by choices like sustainable teak or high-performance ceramic," adds Dominic Harrison, King Living designer.

SHOPPING



From top 'Architect' **extension table**, $6995, and **chairs**, $1095 each, all Coco Republic. 'Al Fresco' **dining table**, $2499, **armchairs**, $799 each, and **seat cushions**, $99 each, all Business & Pleasure. 'Le Vent' **dining package**, $2599, Freedom. 'Valencia' **dining table**, $6700, and **armchairs**, $1605 each, all Globe West. 'Portofino' round **dining table** and **occasional chairs**, all Xavier Furniture. 'Mississippi' 9-piece outdoor **lounge/dining setting**, $7499, Domayne. 'Skyler' round **dining table**, $1799, and **dining chairs**, $499 each, all Harvey Norman. 'Turqueta' **extension table**, $5199, and **dining chairs**, $999 each, all Kave Home.

In or out *Bi-fold doors create a smooth transition between the living room and alfresco dining space in this abode, designed by Katie Sargent.*

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **MARTINA GEMMOLA** STYLING (THIS PAGE) **KATIE SARGENT**

Question time

Before you purchase any piece of outdoor furniture, it's vital to do your research. "The number one question to identify is what items will be fully exposed and which will be outdoors but undercover," shares Katie. This will help determine whether or not your furniture needs to be able to withstand full exposure to the elements.

As with any room, ensuring functionality is the next step. "The designs you choose must accommodate the intended use, whether hosting large gatherings or more intimate moments," explains Dominic. Make sure you measure your space and check the size of the pieces you're eyeing off as well as the durability of the materials and their style. "By considering both aesthetics and practicality, you can create an outdoor oasis that reflects your personal style while providing lasting enjoyment," shares Dominic. >

A soft spot

Fabrics create an opportunity to add colour and pattern, but they also need to meet a set of requirements to make them suitable for outdoor use. "Look for items that feature removable covers and fabrics specifically designed for easy cleaning or machine washing," suggests Dominic. On top of this, check the qualities of any fabric before you buy it. "Fabric comes with different outdoor suitability," explains Katie, listing colour fastness, UV protection, stain repellent, water repellent and waterproof attributes among the medley of possibilities. For extra protection, treat your fabrics with an outdoor protector spray.

Blue sky dreaming *KWD design studio kept this poolside simple, with The Teak Place sun loungers and accompanying umbrellas.*

> *"We look to materials, such as natural teak, which wears beautifully and ages to a lovely, silvery grey over time"*
>
> **SIMONE SARSON, XAVIER FURNITURE**

Extra cushioning

What goes inside your upholstery is as important as the fabric itself. Ensuring cushion fill and cushion liners can fully drain out water or dry out completely is the key to avoiding mould. "Cushions should always have foam inserts made of reticulated outdoor foam to allow for drainage of moisture and rain," explains Simone.

Not sure where to store your cushions when not in use? Opt for furniture that has storage incorporated into its design, such as bench seats, coffee tables or ottomans. "Cushion storage spaces need only be slim," says Katie. "You could incorporate a storage shed down the side of your property if space is tight, or racking in your garage."

Making it last

You've done your research and purchased high-quality products suited to your environment – now it's time to focus on maintenance so your outdoor furniture stays in tip-top shape for years to come. "Oil timbers regularly, bring in cushions when not in use, remove fallen leaves from furniture as they can stain, and wipe them down often so dirt doesn't become ingrained," says Katie.

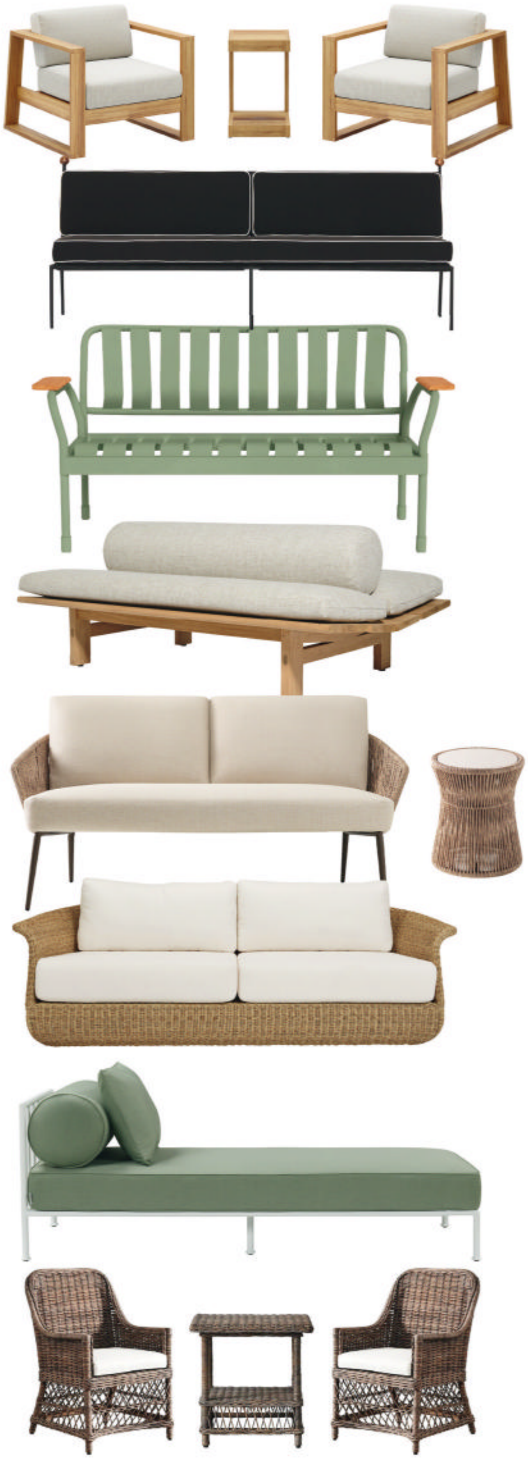
If you've selected low-maintenance materials, such as wrought iron, Simone says that a simple wipe down with a damp cloth will do the trick. "For more stubborn marks, a soft brush and water is suitable," she explains. Dominic recommends a fortnightly hose down of outdoor furniture and warns people to avoid abrasive cleaning methods. Ultimately, you should follow the specific care instructions detailed for each individual piece.

On the up

With alfresco areas rising in popularity, it's no wonder experts are noticing a flurry of trends. "We have seen more clients requesting ottomans to pair with their sofas and armchairs, to create a more relaxing atmosphere," says Simone. At King Living, Dominic has noticed a move towards modular customisation, which helps people in "curating a space that adapts to their evolving lifestyle". After all, furnishing your outdoor area to support the lifestyle you love is the most important part of all.

PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE) **TIM O'CONNOR** STYLING (OPPOSITE) **JADE LEE MARTIN**

SHOPPING



From top 'Rio C' teak **side table**, $399, and **lounge chairs**, $1249 each, all Castlery. 'Hudson' **sofa**, $4195, Coco Republic. 'Torakina' 2-seater **lounge**, $950, Koala. 'Utzon(s)' **gallery bench**, from $5945, Eco Outdoor. 'Quay' **sofa**, from $1763, and 'Oasis' **side table**, $790, King Living. 'Sonata' **sofa**, $2299, Freedom. 'Rowe' single **sun lounge**, $2195, MCM House. 'Kasbah' **verandah chairs**, $699 each, and **side table**, $499, all Provincial Home Living.

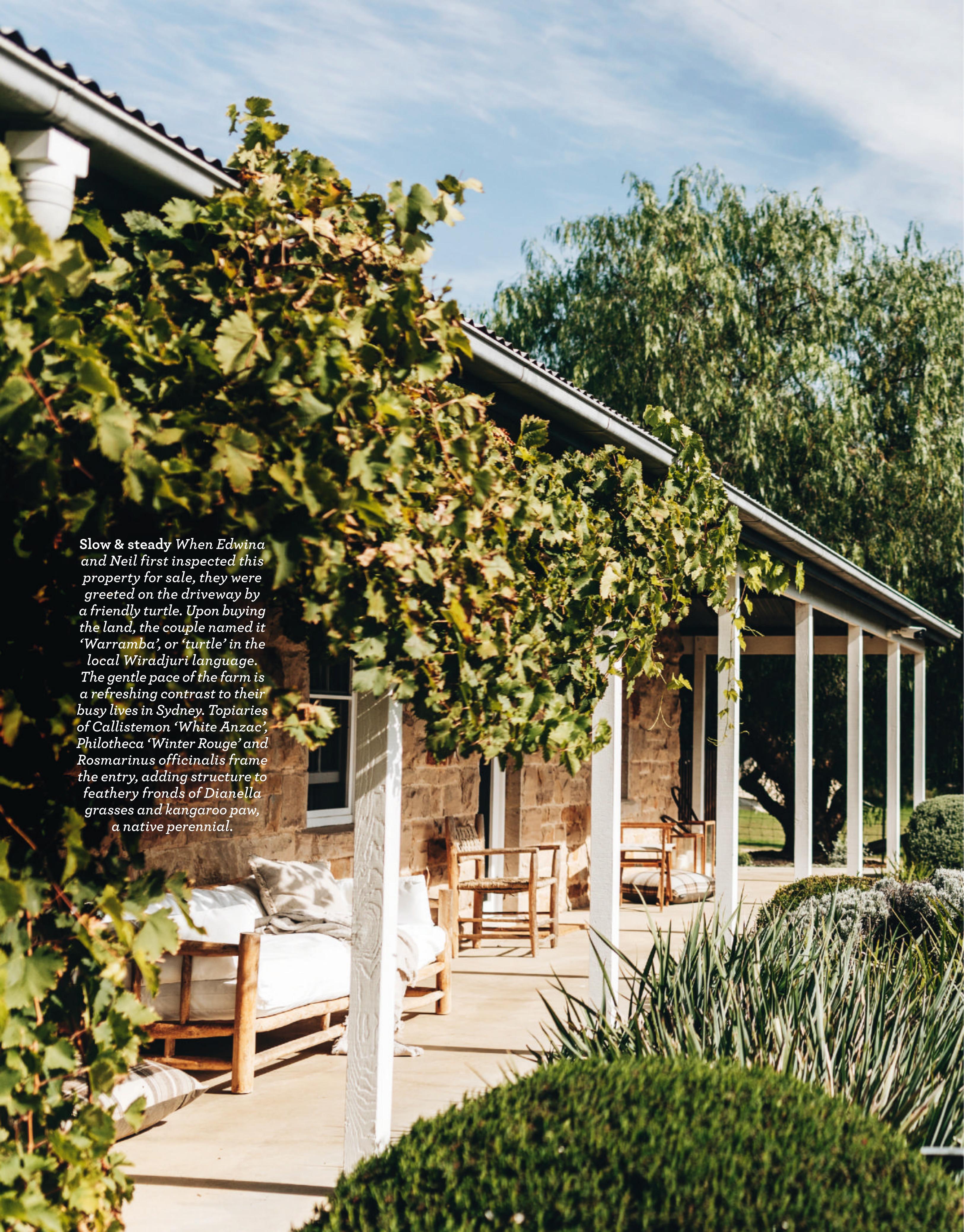
Put your
mind on
silent.
Come on,
switch off.
home beautiful
THE JOYFUL SEASON
Queen of social media
Celeste Barber
On fame, family & *real* beauty
New Idea
FLIRTY FRED UNDER FIRE
MISSY HIGGINS
184 NEW FASHION BUYS
CASH for
69 KILOS GONE
CRUISING JAPAN'S SUBTROPICAL ISLANDS

BEAUTIFUL GARDENS

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION FOR STYLISH OUTDOOR LIVING

PHOTOGRAPHY MARNIE HAWSON STYLING HANNAH BRADY

GREAT ESCAPE
PAGE 136
→



Slow & steady *When Edwina and Neil first inspected this property for sale, they were greeted on the driveway by a friendly turtle. Upon buying the land, the couple named it 'Warramba', or 'turtle' in the local Wiradjuri language. The gentle pace of the farm is a refreshing contrast to their busy lives in Sydney. Topiaries of Callistemon 'White Anzac', Philotheca 'Winter Rouge' and Rosmarinus officinalis frame the entry, adding structure to feathery fronds of Dianella grasses and kangaroo paw, a native perennial.*

GREAT ESCAPE

Edwina Bartholomew and Neil Varcoe's once-bare country garden is now a lush oasis, brimming with beauty

STORY JULIA FAIRLEY | STYLING & PHOTOGRAPHY ABBIE MELLÉ

Like many Sydneysiders, TV journalist and *Sunrise* presenter Edwina Bartholomew and Neil Varcoe, a writer, dreamt of having a place in the country. Somewhere to unwind, where their future children could swap skyscrapers for hilly horizons and roam to a playlist of birdsong. As 2015 drew to a close, they'd been on the lookout for land. "It was New Year's Eve and we were doing a quiz in the weekend paper, which makes us sound like real ragers, but the question was, 'What is the widest canyon in the world?'" recalls Edwina. "Neil piped up and said, 'Oh, that's the Capertee Valley'. He grew up nearby in Lithgow, so he was familiar with it." A quick search of properties for sale revealed an 1890s sandstone shearer's cottage on 42 barren hectares, and they sprang into action. "We drove down on Australia Day in 2016 and purchased the property right then and there," says Edwina. >

***Homeward bound** Even the trusty four-wheel drive is worthy of a name, christened Reginald Warramba Varcoe the Land Rover (top left). The family's Scottish Highland cattle recently welcomed little Merida (top right & opposite, top right). In summer, the verandah is shaded by a verdant grapevine (bottom right), which turns crimson in autumn before shedding its leaves in winter and letting in the slanting sunshine. Path lighting from Gardens At Night illuminates the Dichondra 'Silver Falls' groundcover (opposite, top left) and lights the xeriscaped barbecue area (opposite, bottom left). "My favourite hangout is the front verandah with the big outdoor couch. Often in the mornings you'll get kangaroos on the front lawn, so we'll sit there, have our breakfast and watch the kangaroos go by," says Edwina of the entry (opposite, bottom right). >*

> "IT'S HONESTLY CHANGED OUR LIVES. IT'S BEEN SUCH AN AMAZING PROJECT FOR BOTH OF US AND AN AMAZING BASE FOR OUR FAMILY"

EDWINA

> "IT'S A FREE-FLOWING GARDEN THAT HAS A LITTLE BIT OF ORDER TO IT. AS WE CHANGE, THE GARDEN CHANGES, TOO. IT'S BEEN AN EVOLUTION"
>
> **EDWINA**

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **MARNIE HAWSON** STYLING (THIS PAGE) **HANNAH BRADY**

After renovating the run-down interior and readying the charming three-bedroom farmhouse for short-term rentals, the couple turned to the exterior. "With the exception of the grapevine, there was no garden at all, not even a plant. There was one tree, a cedar, which we had to cut down because it was poisoning the water supply," says Edwina. "There was grass right up to the verandah and that was it, not even a shrub, so we really started from scratch."

What followed was a garden design driven more by site than style. "You can't put in a traditional English-style garden out here without having to pump it full of water, so it made a lot more sense – both for the native wildlife and for the conditions – to lean into it, as opposed to fighting against it."

Guided by Warren Walker of Wariapendi Native Nursery in the NSW Southern Highlands, the garden is now lush with hardy native and exotic plants that withstand the sub-zero winter nights and summer days of 40-plus degrees Celsius. "Warren took it to the next level, because instead of building a garden inside a fence, he designed a garden that incorporated the fence, so it flows in and out of the fence line and undulates beyond it," explains Edwina.

The garden has grown with Edwina and Neil, who tied the knot at Warramba in 2018, inviting guests to contribute a gift or a tree to their budding orchard. "All the trees in the orchard were bought by our friends, and now we're starting to see them fruit and grow really tall. That's been lovely," says Edwina. They have since welcomed Molly, four, and Tom, two, who love the garden.

In 2024, Edwina revealed she has received a cancer diagnosis and has begun treatment for chronic myeloid leukaemia. She spent the following weeks at Warramba, where the family continue their pilgrimage and find solace with each visit. "When you're there, even if it's just for a weekend, it feels like days and days because you are in the garden," she says. "It feels like time away from the world."

A cut above *The clipped topiary mounds dotting the garden were Edwina's idea (this page). "It was my handiwork," she says. "I'm a bit over-zealous with it because I love our big chainsaw." An old cedar was replaced with a peppercorn tree, which now towers over the cottage and pool. Neil and Edwina (pictured, opposite) access Warramba via a long, unsealed drive that winds through the 42-hectare property.* **>**

SOURCE BOOK

Landscape design: *Wariapendi Native Nursery, wariapendi.com.au.* ***Landscaping:*** *ED Landscapes, edlandscapes.com.* ***Stay:*** *Warramba is available for holiday rentals and sleeps up to six people. Visit Airbnb or warramba.com.au to book.*

A sunburnt country *Edwina loves curling up on the Uniqwa Collections outdoor sofas with a cuppa resting on the vintage stools she found at Kabinett in Kyneton (top left). "It's a beautiful spot to read a book and relax," she says. It's Neil's job to chop the firewood, which is piled up beneath the home's storybook sash windows (top right).* ***Opposite 1.*** *"I mowed the lawns last time I was there, and even though my lawns are a little bit like a bad haircut, I just love it," says Edwina.* ***2.*** *Mate, the family's faithful Blue Heeler, relaxes with Edwina.* ***3.*** *The couple recently added the circular above-ground mineral pool, which is one of Molly and Tom's favourite spots. Edwina designed the pool with Allcast Precast in Queensland and had it clad in hardwood timber battens, which help it blend into the backdrop of slender poplar trees. "They change colours in autumn, which is beautiful," says Edwina.* ***4. & 6.*** *The homestead's original sandstone walls stand proud, harking back to its 1890s origins as a shearer's cottage* ***5. & 7.*** *Edwina and Neil named their affectionate fold of Scottish Highland cows after illustrious real-life and fictional Scottish characters, including Susan Boyle, Jamie Fraser, Annie Lennox, Shirley Manson, Ewan McGregor and Andy Murray.* ***8.*** *On a distant hill, the couple built a raised yoga deck large enough to host sunset picnic dinners. "It has the most spectacular 360-degree views of the Capertee Valley," shares Edwina.* HB

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> “WE NEEDED THE GARDEN TO BE REALLY LOW-MAINTENANCE, DROUGHT-TOLERANT AND IMPACTFUL”
>
> **EDWINA**

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PHOTOGRAPHY (2) MARNIE HAWSON STYLING (2) HANNAH BRADY

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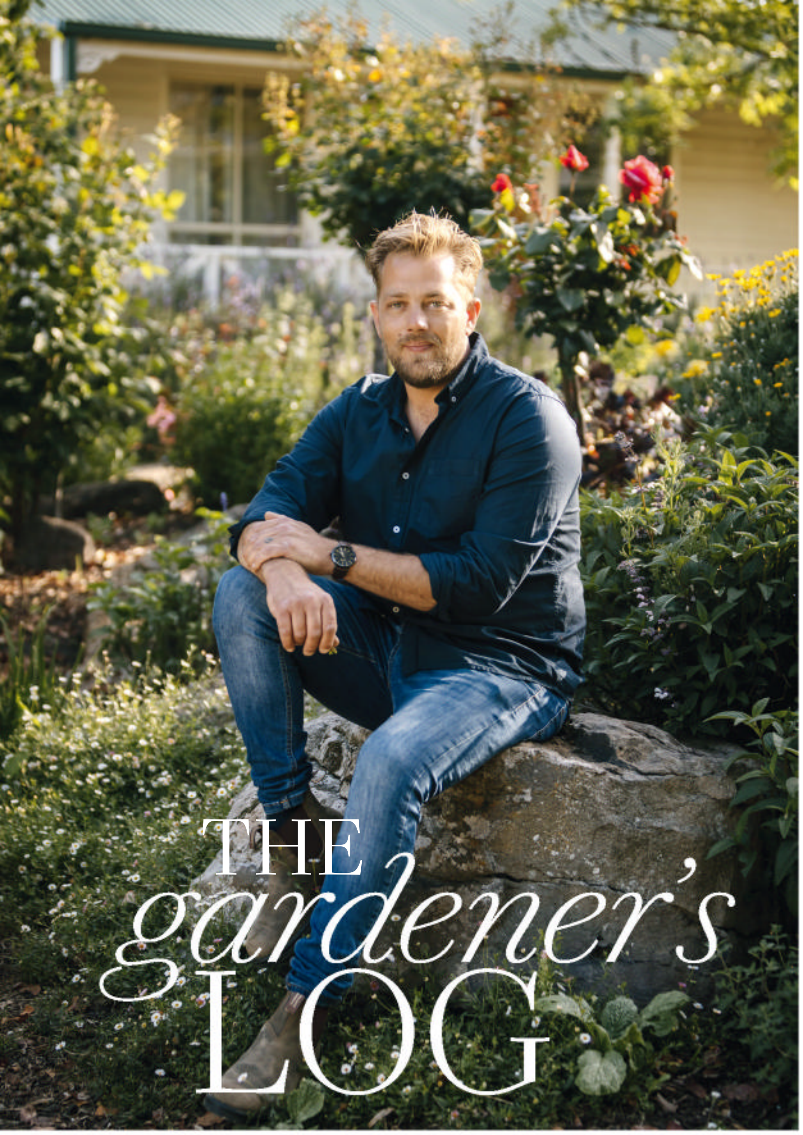


THE gardener's LOG

The New Year is all about fresh starts, so turn over a new leaf and start planning your dream garden – here's how

WORDS **ASHLEY JAMES** | PHOTOGRAPHY **ALLIE ASZODI**

The New Year offers an excellent opportunity to evaluate any alfresco areas you may want to transform or update. Whether you're starting 2025 with a blank canvas outside or have an existing garden that needs a refresh, this new series of monthly landscape design guides will assist you with each step. Not everyone has the budget for a designer, gardener or landscaper, so together we'll explore how to plan and cultivate your very own outdoor oasis.

The basics of beautiful gardens

First, grab a notepad and pen, find a comfortable spot in your garden to relax, and take a moment to observe the space around you. What does your heart desire for this area? Is it entertaining friends and family? Do you want to give your kids space to play? Have you always longed to grow productive fruit and vegies? Write the dream down.

Balance your wants and needs

Next, create two headings: 'Wish List' and 'Must Haves'. Below each, jot down what you would like to include in your outdoor area and what's essential. For instance, you may want a swimming pool or a kitchen garden, though you might need a clothesline. Keep both lists realistic, considering your budget and the size of your garden.

Surveying your outdoor space

If you have a new build, your builder or developer should provide you with a survey, though if you're planning a large acreage you may want to hire a professional (just keep in mind this can be expensive). Alternatively, to roughly sketch your own, start by mapping your property lines using a scaled ruler and pencil, adding any existing trees you want to keep, plus service locations or easements.

Map the path of the sun

Take some time to observe and mark how the sun moves across your property. This is crucial to determine which plants will thrive and it'll help you decide where you'd like any outdoor seating. Additionally, mark any neighbouring views or obstacles you'd like to block, such as overlooking second-storey windows or an unsightly power pole.

Learn your soil type

Knowing your soil type is vital, particularly for new builds that may have had soil brought in or removed. To do this, dig a hole about 20cm x 40cm wide and at least 40cm deep. This should reveal whether your soil is clay, sandy or sandy loam, which is crucial information that will guide your plant selection and point to any drainage needs.

Identify your pH levels

Finally, you'll want to test the pH levels of your soil, so purchase a pH testing kit from your local hardware store, which will have all the necessary tools and instructions. Your garden's pH levels go a long way in dictating which plants will thrive and can be adjusted over time if need be.

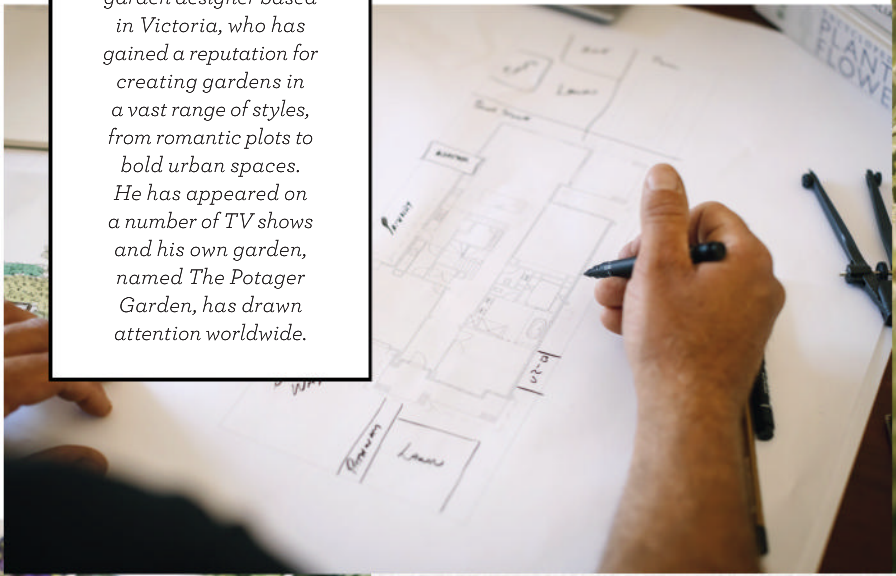
Next month, I'll guide you through the subsequent steps to create your dream garden. And if you're not undertaking a complete landscape overhaul, here's what I'm tackling in my garden this month – you might want to do the same.

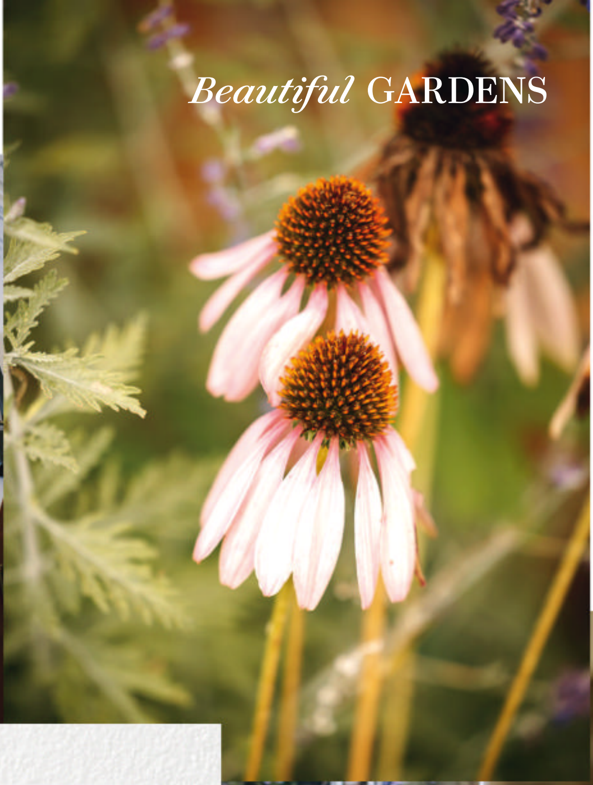
Remember to keep your garden beds well-mulched with a quality organic mulch in summer. This helps suppress weeds, retain moisture and lower soil temperatures.

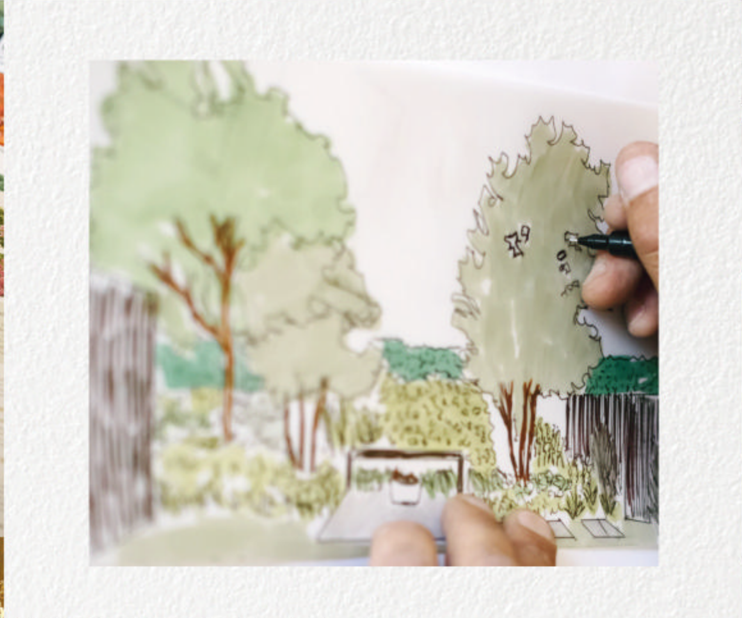
Regularly deadhead your roses to encourage strong, healthy blooms. Trace the stem down to the first outward-facing bud with at least five leaves and make your cut just above it at a 45-degree angle, so water drains off the cut.

Be diligent about watering your garden during summer. The best times to water are early morning or late afternoon – avoid the peak hours of midday sun in hot weather.

Ashley James (opposite) is a horticulturist and garden designer based in Victoria, who has gained a reputation for creating gardens in a vast range of styles, from romantic plots to bold urban spaces. He has appeared on a number of TV shows and his own garden, named The Potager Garden, has drawn attention worldwide.







This page, clockwise from top left *Ashley (pictured, opposite) starts by sketching his ideas. Echinacea purpurea adds a pop of pink to planting palettes. Distinguish between 'must haves' and a 'wish list' when planning your plot. Samples of materials help in the concept design phase. Including seating increases the usability of your garden. For a constant supply of blooms, check out gardening guides. Ashley finesses an illustration.* HB

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BEAUTIFUL FOOD

EASY AND DELICIOUS FOOD TO SHARE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

WHIPPED EGGPLANT DIP WITH ITALIAN-STYLE CRUDITES *(see page 151)*

PHOTOGRAPHY CON POULOS

PICK & MIX
PAGE 148 →

GNOCCHO FRITTO
WITH ARTICHOKE
CREAM & PROSCIUTTO
(see page 154)

PICK & MIX

As the entertaining season gets into full swing, bring out these grazing plates – they're sure to impress your guests

RECIPES JESSICA BROOK | STYLING STEVE PEARCE
PHOTOGRAPHY CON POULOS

OYSTERS WITH CRISPY CAPER & CHILLED TOMATO VINAIGRETTE *(see opposite)*

Whipped eggplant dip with Italian-style crudites

Serves 6–8

- 1 bulb garlic
- 2 eggplants
- ⅔ cup (160ml) crème fraîche
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 2 slices soft white bread, crust removed
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil, plus extra to drizzle
- 200g baby cucumbers, halved
- 150g butter beans, trimmed
- 2 endives, trimmed and leaves separated
- 8 zucchini flowers
- 1 radicchio Treviso, leaves separated
- Chervil

1 Preheat oven to 220°C. Wrap the garlic in foil. Place on a tray with eggplants. Prick eggplants all over with a fork and cook, for 45–60 minutes or until tender and charred.
2 Remove from oven and transfer eggplant to a colander set over a large bowl. Stand, covered with cling film to drain and cool slightly.
3 Squeeze garlic from skins. Discard liquid from eggplant and remove skin. Using your hands, squeeze excess liquid from eggplants. Transfer to a blender with garlic, crème fraîche, lemon juice, bread and olive oil and process until smooth. Season with salt and pepper. Refrigerate for 1 hour or until cooled and thickened.
4 Transfer to a bowl, cover surface with plastic wrap and chill for 1 hour or until cooled and thickened.
5 Serve eggplant dip with vegetables. Drizzle with oil and serve with chervil.
NOTE This dip can be prepared 1–2 days in advance; store covered and chilled. Serve with a mixture of any of your favourite vegetables.

Oysters with crispy caper & chilled tomato vinaigrette

Serves 6

- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, thinly sliced on a mandolin
- 1 tbsp baby capers, rinsed and patted dry
- 1 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 heirloom tomato, frozen
- 2 dozen oysters
- Crusty bread, to serve

1 Heat oil in a small frying pan over medium heat. Add garlic and cook for 30 seconds to 1 minute, or until golden and crisp. Remove with a slotted spoon and set aside. Add capers and cook for 1–2 minutes, or until crisp. Remove from heat and set aside to cool.
2 Once cool, place garlic, oil and capers in a small bowl. Add red wine vinegar and season with salt and pepper. Mix to combine.
3 Using a microplane grater, finely grate the frozen tomato. Keep frozen until ready to serve.
4 Serve oysters, topped with dressing and frozen tomato. Serve immediately.
TIP Place tomato whole in the freezer for 6 hours, or overnight until frozen.
NOTE The dressing and grated frozen tomato can be made a few days in advance. Store dressing in the fridge and keep grated tomato in a small container in the freezer. >

SAFFRON & PRAWN ARANCINI WITH LEMON AIOLI *(see page 156)*

BEEF CARPACCIO WITH
FIG, PICKLED FENNEL
& PARMESAN CHIPS
(see page 154)

Beef carpaccio with fig, pickled fennel & parmesan crisps

Serves 6–8

800g piece beef fillet, trimmed
1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil, plus extra to drizzle
2 tbsp white wine vinegar
1 tbsp honey
1 baby fennel, trimmed, sliced on a mandolin
1 cup (80g) finely grated parmesan
3 figs, cut into thin wedges

1 Heat a large non-stick frying pan over high heat. Rub the beef with oil and season with salt and pepper. Cook beef, turning occasionally, for 5–6 minutes, or until just seared on the edges.
2 Transfer beef to a tray and cool slightly. Roll beef tightly in plastic wrap and freeze for 2–3 hours or until firm.
3 Meanwhile, for the pickled fennel, combine vinegar and honey in a small bowl. Whisk to combine. Add fennel, toss to coat and season with salt and pepper.
4 For the parmesan crisps, preheat oven to 200°C fan-forced. Line 2 large baking trays with non-stick baking paper. Sprinkle parmesan on each tray. Place in the oven and bake for 5–8 minutes, or until bubbling and lacy. Set aside on the tray to cool.
5 Thinly slice beef across the grain. Lay slices between baking paper and, using a small saucepan, gently bash to flatten. Arrange on a platter. Serve with fennel and figs. Break parmesan into shards and serve sprinkled on top. Drizzle with oil and pepper, to serve.
NOTE Parmesan crisps can be made a few days in advance. Store in an airtight container. The beef is best cooked a day ahead and chilled. Freeze a few hours before serving to help thinly slice.

Gnoccho fritto with artichoke cream & prosciutto

Serves 6–8

½ cup (80g) toasted pine nuts
1 clove garlic
½ cup (40g) finely grated parmesan
¼ cup (60ml) extra virgin olive oil
280g jar marinated artichokes, drained
1 tbsp lemon juice
12 thin slices prosciutto

Gnoccho fritto
160ml lukewarm water
7g (1 sachet) dried yeast
300g (2 cups) plain flour, plus extra for rolling
1 tsp fine salt
30g softened butter
Vegetable oil, for deep-frying

1 For the gnoccho, place the water in a small bowl. Add yeast, mix to combine. Set aside for 5–10 minutes or until foamy.
2 Place the flour, salt and butter in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a dough hook. Use your fingertips to rub the butter into the flour. Add the milk and yeast mixture, then mix on low speed until a smooth dough comes together. Transfer to another bowl, cover and stand in a warm place for 1 hour or until doubled in size.
3 Divide dough in half. Roll out each dough half on a lightly floured surface to 3mm thick (25cm x 35cm rectangle). Using a knife, cut into 12 rectangles.
4 Fill a frying pan one-third full with oil. Place over medium heat until it reaches 180°C on a deep-frying thermometer.
5 In batches, fry the dough for 3–4 minutes, or until golden and puffed. Remove from the oil using a slotted spoon and drain on a wire rack placed over a tray. Set aside.
6 For the artichoke cream, combine pine nuts, garlic, parmesan and oil in a blender and blend until smooth. Add artichokes and lemon juice and blend until smooth. Season with salt and pepper.
7 Serve gnoccho fritto topped with artichoke cream, prosciutto and pepper. >

CHEESE WITH FRESH PEACH, MUSTARD & HONEY CHUTNEY *(see page 156)*

Saffron & prawn arancini with lemon aioli

Serves 6–8

1 cup (250ml) boiling water
1 cup (250ml) white wine
2 cups (500ml) hot fish stock
8 threads saffron
1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
2 eschalots, finely chopped
1½ cups (300g) arborio rice
16 green tiger prawns, peeled and finely chopped
¼ tsp dried chilli flakes
2 tsp finely grated lemon zest
½ cup (75g) plain flour
3 eggs, lightly beaten
1½ cups (110g) panko (Japanese) breadcrumbs
Vegetable oil, for deep-frying
Lemon wedges, to serve

Lemon aioli

1 tsp finely grated lemon zest
⅓ cup (80ml) store bought aioli

1 Place the boiling water, wine, stock and saffron in a large heatproof jug and set aside to soak. Heat oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat.
2 Add the eschalots and cook, stirring, for 4 minutes, until softened. Add the rice, stirring for 1 minute, until grains are glossy. Add the saffron mixture, 1 cup (250ml) at a time, adding more only once liquid has absorbed, and cook, stirring frequently, for 20 minutes or until all the liquid has absorbed.
3 Add prawns, chilli flakes and lemon zest and cook, stirring for a further 5 minutes, or until the prawns change colour and are cooked.
4 Remove from the heat. Spoon into a shallow tray and refrigerate for 20 minutes to cool.
5 Roll 2 tablespoons of the rice mixture into balls. Dust each with the flour, dip into the egg and roll in the breadcrumbs to coat.
6 Fill a large saucepan two-thirds full with oil and place over medium heat until it reaches 180°C on a deep-frying thermometer. Cook the rice balls, in batches, for 3 minutes or until golden. Drain on paper towel.
7 For the aioli, combine lemon zest and aioli together and season. Sprinkle with salt and serve with arancini and lemon wedges.
NOTE Make the risotto base a few days in advance. Roll into balls and coat in crumbs. Store refrigerated for up to 2 days. Aioli can be made and kept refrigerated for 5 days.

Tonnato (tuna) stuffed peppers

Serves 6–8

425g tinned tuna in olive oil, drained
250g softened cream cheese
1 tbsp capers
4 anchovies
1 tsp smoked paprika
¼ tsp chilli flakes
2 tsp finely grated lemon zest
1 tbsp finely chopped parsley
16 piquillo peppers, drained (you will need 2 x 285g jars)
Lemon wedges, to serve

Crumb

2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
2 cloves garlic, crushed
¼ cup (25g) panko breadcrumbs

1 Preheat oven grill to high. Combine tuna, cream cheese, capers, anchovies, paprika, chilli, lemon zest and parsley in a food processor and process until smooth. Season with salt and pepper.
2 Drain peppers and pat dry. Spoon tuna filling into each pepper. Place on a baking tray lined with foil. Grill for 10 minutes, or until lightly charred.
3 Meanwhile, to make the crumb, heat oil in a small frying pan over medium heat. Add garlic and breadcrumbs and cook, stirring for 3–4 minutes, or until golden.
4 Serve peppers, warm or room temperature sprinkled with crumbs and lemon wedges to serve.
NOTE The peppers can be stuffed a few days in advance. Store in the refrigerator until ready to grill. Make the crumb ahead of time. Store in an airtight container.

Cheese with fresh peach, mustard & honey chutney

Serves 6–8

8 dried orange slices
500g wheel triple cream cheese
Crackers or bread, to serve

Peach, mustard & honey relish

1 eschallot, finely chopped
1 clove garlic, crushed
1 tbsp seeded mustard
½ cup (125ml) honey
⅓ cup (80ml) sherry vinegar
1 tbsp salt flakes
3 peaches, chopped

1 To make the peach, mustard and honey relish, combine eschallot, garlic, mustard, honey, vinegar, salt and peaches in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a simmer and cook for 8–10 minutes, or until reduced and syrupy. Take off the heat and set aside to cool.
2 Serve cheese, topped with orange slices and relish to serve. Serve with crackers or bread.
NOTE Relish can be made a few days in advance. Store in an airtight container, refrigerated.

TONNATO (TUNA)
STUFFED PEPPERS
(see opposite)

CHÂTEAU TANUNDA
Sparkling Shiraz
NV
ARRAS
G.H.MUMM
CHAMPAGNE
BRUT
CORDON ROUGE
CHAMPAGNE
BOLLINGER
SPECIAL CUVÉE
Stonyfell
JOY
BIRD IN HAND

Top 10

PRECIOUS DROPS

Celebrate the New Year and let your cup run full with our round-up of resplendent sparkling wines and champagne

STYLING LUCY GOUGH | PHOTOGRAPHY KRISTINA ŠOLJO

Our bubbly best

Nothing signals party time like the 'pop!' of a cork and a chilled glass of champagne or sparkling wine, so we've rounded up 10 of our favourite drops. Keep flutes or coupes in the fridge until you're ready to serve and, to free up space on your dining table, try styling a slim console nearby with stemware and a champagne bucket brimming with ice.

LALLIER
LALLIER
CHAMPAGNE
RÉFLEXION
R.020
BRUT
JOSEF CHROMY
JOSEF CHROMY
BRUT FINESSE
2019
OAKRIDGE
YARRA VALLEY
OVATA
CHARDONNAY PINOT NOIR
CHAMPAGNE
CHAMPAGNE APANAGE
BRUT
POMMERY
APANAGE
POMMERY

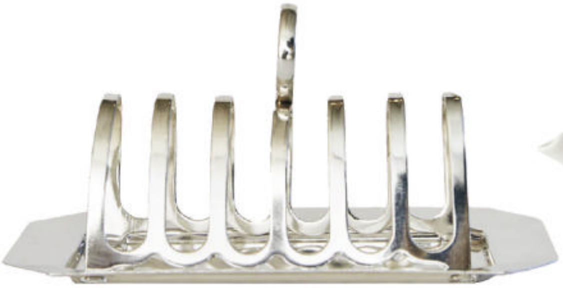
From left: *Sparkling Shiraz NV, $28/750ml, Château Tanunda. 'Joy' Sparkling Pinot Noir Chardonnay 2020, $79/750ml, Bird in Hand. Brut Elite Rosé Cuvée 1801, $68/750ml, House of Arras. GH Mumm Cordon Rouge NV Champagne, $75/750ml, Vintage Cellars. Bollinger Special Cuvee Brut NV Champagne, $90/750ml, Kent Street Cellars. Stonyfell Sparkling Pinot Noir Chardonnay NV, $25/750ml, BWS. Pommery Apanage Brut 1874, $165/750ml, David Jones. Oakridge Ovata Chardonnay Pinot Noir NV, $32/750ml, BWS. Lallier Réflexion R 020 Brut, $73/750ml, David Jones. Josef Chromy Brut Finesse 2019, $50/750ml, Dan Murphy's. For similar champagne tubs, try Oggi champagne bucket, $66.26, Amazon, and 'Winston' champagne bucket, $199.95, Provincial Home Living.*

IT'S PARTY TIME

Summer soiree season has arrived and we have everything you need

WORDS VICTORIA KINGSBURY

Bringing people together by hosting a long lunch, dinner party, barbecue or casual drinks is the best part of the holiday season (and beyond) – it's a chance to spend uninterrupted time with family and friends and let your hair down. If you love to host, you've probably already got everything down pat, whipping up feasts and making sure your guests have a good time and feel at ease. Or maybe you like the idea of a gathering, but it feels daunting. Whether you're an entertaining queen or you could do with some party pointers, we've compiled some of the best tools, gadgets and accoutrement that help make hosting guests a breeze, so you can enjoy the process – and the party!



EARLY RISER

The big breakfast

Whether it's toast for two, or you're hosting brekkie for a crowd, the secret to a successful breakfast is letting people help themselves! If you set up a breakfast bar with appliances such as a toaster, coffee machine and juicer, and fill a big jug with milk, then you'll cut down your workload and your guests will feel more comfortable. If you're cooking eggs to order, try using an egg poacher to speed things up.

Clockwise from top left *Silver* ***toast rack and plate****, $310, Clo Studios. Spode 'Steccato'* ***teacup****, $113.99, and* ***teapot****, $519, both David Jones. 'Nespresso Creatista Pro'* ***coffee machine*** *in Brushed Stainless Steel, $1299, Breville. Spode 'Blue Italian'* ***milk jug****, $165, David Jones.* ***Egg poacher*** *in Blue Salt, $80, and 'Always 2.0'* ***pan*** *in Blue Salt, $275/26.7cm, both Our Place. Breville 'The Smart Toast' 4-slice* ***toaster****, $289, Myer. Smeg Dolce & Gabbana 'Blu Mediterraneo'* ***citrus juicer****, $911, Peter's of Kensington.* **>**

BAKING QUEEN

Home-baked goodies

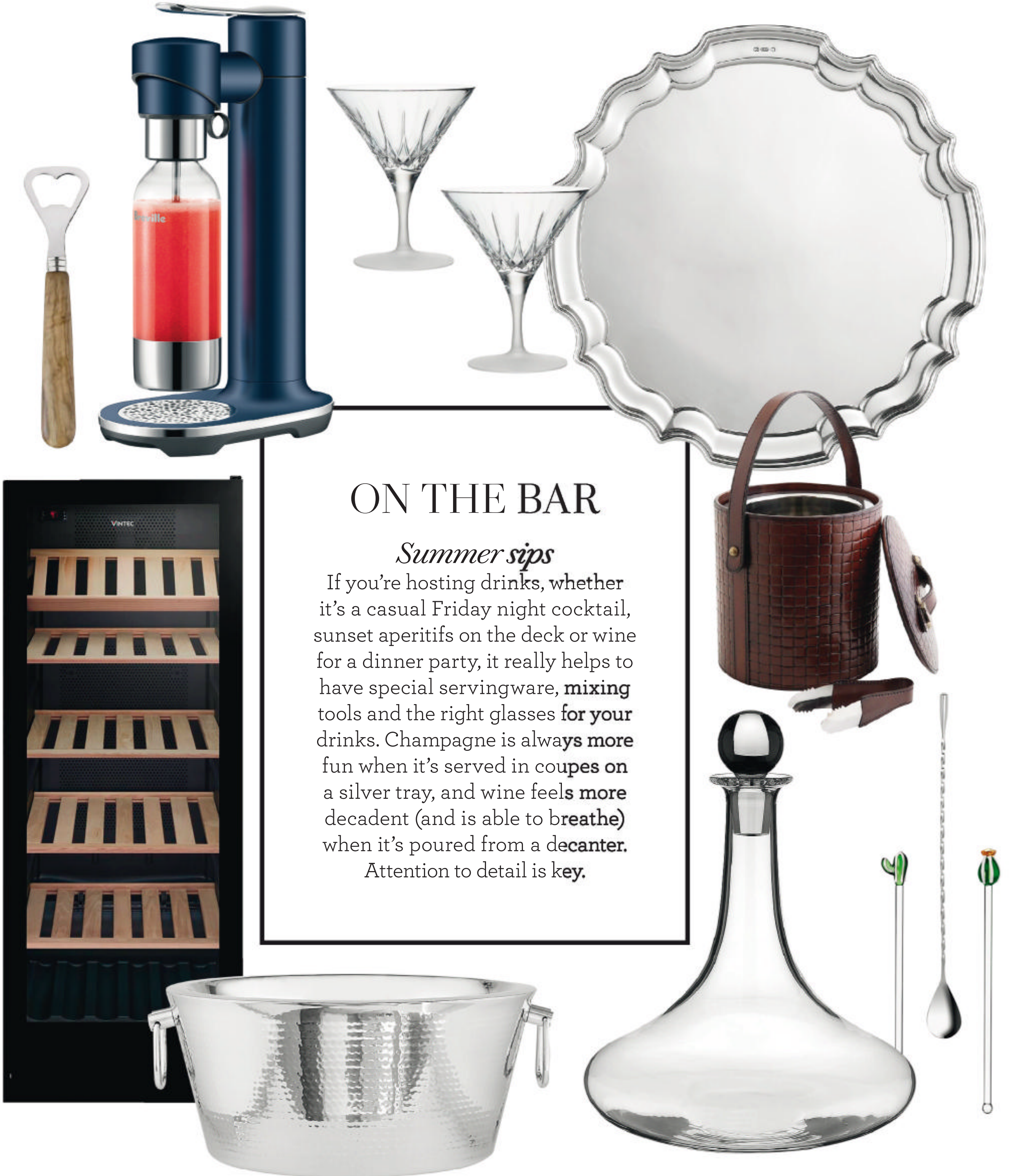
The art of baking cakes, breads and pastries is a love language we all understand. Nothing beats homemade desserts, sweets and treats lovingly made for delighted guests. Domestic goddesses enjoy taking the time to perfect intricate cake decorations, and the ritual of serving afternoon tea in the finest china and on stylish cake platters. Likewise, having quality equipment becomes part of the joy of baking.

Clockwise from top left *Copper* **measuring cups,** *$49.95/set of 4, Alfresco Emporium. Ichendorf Milano 'Fruits & Flowers'* **dome** *with dish cherries, $139, David Jones. Copper* **mixing bowls** *with lids, $209/set of 3, Williams Sonoma. Metal* **cake stand,** *$69.99, H&M. Nordic Ware 'Anniversary'* **loaf pan,** *$69, Williams Sonoma. Le Creuset signature shallow* **casserole dish** *in Garnet, $690, David Jones. Rectangle* **chopping board,** *$70, Città. 'Fable'* **apron,** *$36.90, Wallace Cotton. 'Artisan' tilt-head* **stand mixer** *in Almond Cream Gloss, $899, Kitchen Aid. Vera Wang 'Love Knots' silver giftware* **cake and trowel set,** *$169, Wedgwood.*

ON THE BAR

Summer sips

If you're hosting drinks, whether it's a casual Friday night cocktail, sunset aperitifs on the deck or wine for a dinner party, it really helps to have special servingware, mixing tools and the right glasses for your drinks. Champagne is always more fun when it's served in coupes on a silver tray, and wine feels more decadent (and is able to breathe) when it's poured from a decanter. Attention to detail is key.

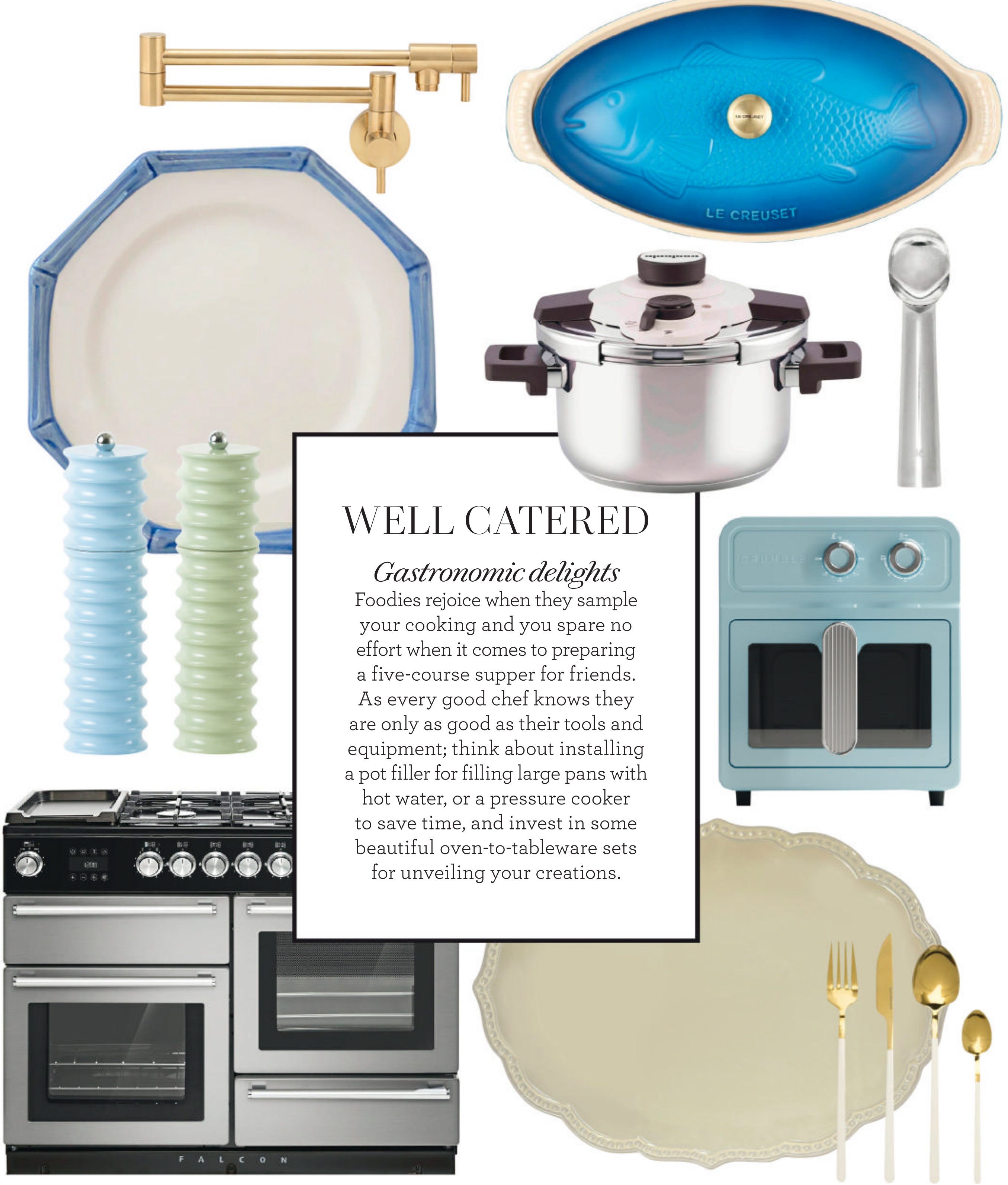


Clockwise from top left *Sabre Paris 'Lavandou'* ***bottle opener****, $34.80, Simple Beautiful Things. Breville 'The InFizz Fusion* ***Sparkler****' in Damson Blue, $279, Harvey Norman. 'Lismore Arcus'* ***martini glasses****, $349/set of 2, Waterford. Royal Selangor 'Liberty Burke'* ***tray****, $409.95, David Jones. 'Island Christmas' leather woven* ***ice bucket****, $299, Alfresco Emporium. Zanzi tear drop stainless steel* ***bar spoon****, $16.95; Ichendorf Milano desert plants* ***mixers****, $19.95/set of 2; and Villeroy & Boch 'Vinobile' connoisseur* ***decanter****, $249; all David Jones. Hammered party* ***tub****, $270, Williams Sonoma. Vintec 148-bottle* ***wine cabinet****, $3299, The Good Guys.* **>**

WELL CATERED

Gastronomic delights

Foodies rejoice when they sample your cooking and you spare no effort when it comes to preparing a five-course supper for friends. As every good chef knows they are only as good as their tools and equipment; think about installing a pot filler for filling large pans with hot water, or a pressure cooker to save time, and invest in some beautiful oven-to-tableware sets for unveiling your creations.



Clockwise from top left *'Elysian'* ***pot filler*** *in Brushed Brass, $364.90, ABI Interiors. Le Creuset heritage* ***fish baker*** *with lid in Marseille Blue, $190, David Jones. Essteele Per Velocita stainless steel* ***pressure cooker****, $389.95, Amazon.* ***Ice-cream dipper****, $19.95, Seed Heritage.* ***Air fryer*** *in Hermes Blue, $429, Crumble. 'Pierre'* ***cutlery****, $149.95/16-piece set, Seed Heritage. 'Ponti' large scalloped* ***serving platter*** *in Cream, $300, Alex and Trahanas. Falcon 'Nexus Steam' 1100mm chrome fitting freestanding dual fuel* ***cooker*** *in Stainless Steel, $18,498, Harvey Norman. Addison Ross 'Twister'* ***salt and pepper grinders*** *in Periwinkle (left) and Sage (right), $150 each, Jardan. 'Bamboo'* ***salad plate*** *in Azur, $130, Hopewood Interiors.*

varia
BIALETTI
MORRIS
SUPREME
AM:PM
WHOLE BEANS
ascaso
NEAT NEGRONI

FINE FINISH

After-dinner treats

There's no need for culinary delights to finish after the dinner table has been cleared – this is the perfect opportunity to treat your nearest and dearest to a platter of gourmet cheese and nibbles, freshly brewed espresso, delicious after-dinner chocolates, special dessert wines or their favourite nightcap. Presentation is everything, so now's the time to use special servingware and light candles for a golden glow.

***Clockwise from top left** Varia VS3 **coffee grinder** Gen 2 in White, $599, Alternative Brewing. 'Merriest' **infuser** in Black, $19, T2. 'Bernadotte' **sugar bowl** with spoon, $170, Georg Jensen. Bialetti 'Moka' 6-cup **coffee maker** in Blue, $95, David Jones. Maxwell & Williams 'Astor' **coffee canister**, $19.95, Temple & Webster. Los Encajeros 'Spring Blue' **coasters**, $120/set of 4, Hopewood Interiors. Neat negroni **chocolate marbles**, $11.90/54g, Koko Black. 'Taika Sato' **cappuccino cup**, $39.95, Iittala. Ascaso Steel Duo PID Plus **coffee machine** in White, $3800, Jetblack Espresso. AM:PM espresso blend whole **beans**, $19.50/250g, Coffee Supreme. Morris Wines Rutherglen Old Rare Premium Liqueur **Muscat**, $119.99/500ml, Dan Murphy's.* HB

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JOURNEYS

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BEAUTIFUL PLACES

DREAM DESTINATIONS AND INSPIRING PLACES NEAR AND FAR

PHOTOGRAPHY ADOBE STOCK

LOST IN JAPAN
PAGE 168 →

Lost in JAPAN

EVERY MOMENT IN JAPAN – WHERE TRADITION COLLIDES WITH MODERNITY – IS SOMETHING TO SAVOUR

STORY **KAYLA WRATTEN**

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE & OPPOSITE, TOP) **ADOBE STOCK** (OPPOSITE, BOTTOM) **SOWAKA KYOTO**

KYOTO

It's mid-morning and I'm sitting cross-legged in a peaceful tea house. Nestled within Nijō Castle, a UNESCO world heritage site in Kyoto, it overlooks a tranquil pond garden surrounded by stone paths and bare-limbed weeping pagoda trees. On the table, scoops of powdered green tea, bamboo whisks and ceramic bowls of hot water are assembled like objets d'art, elevating a simple break for matcha tea into a charming, ceremonial Japanese experience. This ability to transform the mundane into the magical is precisely what lures travellers to Japan and its ancient cities.

Considered the cultural heart of the country, Kyoto once served as the imperial capital of Japan from 794 for more than 1000 years. The spirited city is scattered with hidden treasures for visitors to mine, from the awe-inspiring Arashiyama Bamboo Grove to the endless uphill stream of red torii (shrine gates) at Fushimi Inari-Taisha, and the alluring beauty of the Kiyomizu-dera temple in every season.

I'm staying in the historic geisha district Gion. Here, ryokan-style luxury hotel Sowaka (a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World) hugs a quiet, stone-lined street. Sowaka is a Sanskrit word of blessing that means 'may there be happiness', and this philosophy underpins every design detail in the sukiya-style building. Elegantly appointed tatami-matted guest rooms feature cypress baths, paper sliding doors, or private Zen gardens for moments of meditation, while the on-site restaurant serves creative Japanese cuisine in a serene setting. Think plates of delicate squid and salmon sashimi paired with sake or Grand Cru Champagne: happiness in a glass.

Top *Three apprentice geishas walking along a street in Kyoto.* ***Bottom*** *Expect to feel right at home from the moment you slip off your shoes and accept the welcome matcha tea from the staff at Sowaka, a traditional-style hotel located in Kyoto's Gion district.* ***Opposite*** *Torii gates are a common sight at Japanese shrines.* **>**

OSAKA

While Kyoto has made a name for itself in fine dining, nowhere does street food better than Osaka. It's a short 15-minute Shinkansen bullet train south of Kyoto, but this lively city has a very different personality.

I arrive at sunset as the dynamic Dōtonbori district starts to come alive. Neon billboards and flashing lights cast colourful reflections across the Dōtonbori canal, and the area is teeming with people searching for somewhere to eat. Hundreds of restaurants and bars line the main thoroughfare and twisting side streets, vying for attention with delicious street snacks like strawberry mochi, Kobe beef skewers, and takoyaki, the local dish of grilled octopus balls drizzled in mayonnaise and dried bonito. Opting for an okonomiyaki restaurant, I shed my winter layers and delight in frying the Japanese-style cabbage pancake on a steaming iron griddle.

Throughout the week, I savour local dishes at the Kuromon Ichiba seafood market, line up for hours to taste the specialty tonkotsu at a six-seater ramen bar, and sip hand-crafted cocktails in intimate speakeasies. In between meals, Osaka is the perfect playground for exploration – from the magnificent Osaka Castle to the Osaka Ukiyo-e Museum.

TOKYO

Further east, Tokyo is something of a culture shock for the uninitiated. The most populated city in the world, Japan's capital is a hotbed of contrasts known for its vibrant nightlife, busy train stations and world-famous Shibuya crossing. The sheer number of modern museums and notable galleries – from the art-filled Tokyo National Museum to the immersive teamLab Planets – means there's never a dull moment, while shopping districts like Harajuku and Ginza require full-day expeditions (and a full wallet, too).

But there are also pockets of peace if you know where to find them. Like a green island floating in the concrete city, the Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden is an expansive sanctuary of parklands including a tropical greenhouse and three styles of gardens. And, if you're as fortunate as I am, it's also a memorable place to view Japan's cherry blossom trees.

Now in the depths of winter, Kanzakura (a variety of cherry tree that flowers in this cool season) are in full bloom. The grass is blanketed with strawberry and cream petals, and each mesmerising branch quivers with the weight of its own beauty. Proof that, in every city, Japan transforms the mundane into the magical.

Neon signs light up the night in Tokyo. ***Opposite, clockwise from top left*** *Harajuku shopping district in Tokyo is the heartland of kawaii culture; visit the Tennoji district of Osaka to get a close up view of Tsutenkaku Tower; Tokyo's famous Shibuya crossing; one of the hotel rooms at the BnA Alter Museum in Kyoto.*

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PLAN YOUR TRIP

***Where to stay:* BnA Alter Museum**, *Kyoto. Sleep in a unique art room in a boutique hotel.* ***Sowaka**, Kyoto. For traditional luxury, from JPY77,000 per night (approx. $768)*.* ***The Tokyo Station Hotel**, Tokyo. A member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World. For more information, visit slh.com.*

***Where to eat:* Panel Cafe**, *Kyoto. Rise early to line up for these Insta-famous 'wobbly' pancakes.* ***Kuromon Ichiba Market**, Osaka. Savour fresh seafood and Osaka-specific delicacies.* ***Fukuho Gyoza**, Tokyo.*

***Where to visit:* Kiyomizu-dera temple**, *Kyoto.* ***Umeda Sky Building**, Osaka. Visit at sunset for sweeping views of Osaka city.* ***Osaka Castle**, Osaka. Step back in time at this enchanting site.* ***Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden**, Tokyo.*

***Where to shop:* Harajuku, Tokyo.** *For fashion boutiques, vintage stores, and kawaii culture.* ***Ginza, Tokyo.** Browse luxury labels and stationery haven, Itoya.* ***Gion, Kyoto.** For handmade ceramics.*

Getting there: *Japan is a 7 to 10-hour direct or stopover flight from Australia, and there are multiple options to get there. Flight prices start from approx. $2108* for a round trip from Sydney to Tokyo with Japan Airlines. Visit flightcentre.com.au to help plan your trip and flights.* HB

(ALL IMAGES EXCEPT BOTTOM LEFT) **ADOBE STOCK** (BOTTOM LEFT) **HARDCORE, MAGMA, BNA_WALL, PHOTOGRAPHER TOMOOKI KENGAKU** *PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF PUBLICATION

THAT'S A WRAP

FASHION BRAND MATTEAU HAS PARTNERED WITH LUXURY BYRON BAY HOTEL, RAES ON WATEGOS (RIGHT), TO RELEASE A CAPSULE COLLECTION. THE SILK SEPARATES REFLECT THE TROPICAL LOCALE AND INCLUDE A SCARF, $140, (LEFT) AND SARONG, $260, (BELOW) IN BLUE AND CREAM. SEE SHOP.RAES.COM.AU.

Bon voyage

CHIC TRAVELS

Holiday stays and buys to help you keep calm and carry on

EDITED BY ALICE IERACE & REBECCA HOOTON

3 MINI BEAUTY TRAVEL KITS

Below, top to bottom: Aēsop 'Arrival' hair and body product quartet, $50, davidjones.com. Emma Lewisham 'The Essentials' skincare set, $145, mecca.com/en-au. Go-To x Alémais 'Glow Getters' travel-size skincare minis, gotoskincare.com.

Aēsop
Arrival
EMMA LEWISHAM
The Essent
Glow Getters

KICK BACK, RELAX

If you're off to the town of Berry on NSW's South Coast, check into The Berry View (above). The mid-century hotel has been newly renovated with the addition of 18 new rooms, an infinity pool and lounging area with a nostalgic aesthetic. Make a booking at theberryview.com.au.

POUCH FOR THAT

For stylish and organised travels, stash your bits and bobs in a State Of Escape 'Everyday' pouch before tossing it in your suitcase or carry on. There are three sizes to choose from (right) and seven gorgeous colour options. Head to stateofescape.com for more.

Sky's the limit

If a city escape is on the cards, make it special with a stay at award-winning hotel The Ritz-Carlton, Melbourne. The luxurious rooms and suites feature panoramic vistas, as does the heavenly spa and pool (left), and the fine dining restaurant, Atria (right), all of which is 80 storeys above the city. While you're there, keep an eye out for the impressive art and installations by the likes of Roger Kemp, Jon Cattapan, Sally Smart and Mira Gojack. Visit ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/australia/melbourne.

IN THE BAG

There's a new drop of 'Juliette' bags from luggage brand July, including the Soft Small Tote (left), $245, in Chocolate Brown. It's designed to travel well, sliding easily over luggage handles and big enough to fit an iPad or small laptop. There are six buttery soft styles in the collection and they come in an array of colours. For a personalised touch, add your initials at checkout. Find them at july.com/au.

UP, UP & AWAY

BUAHAN, A BANYAN TREE ESCAPE (RIGHT), IS SURROUNDED BY THE BEAUTY OF THE BALINESE JUNGLE. THE LUXE ADULTS-ONLY RESORT IS LOCATED 40 MINUTES NORTH OF UBUD AND HAS 16 PRIVATE VILLAS. EACH BOASTS ITS OWN POOL AND UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS OF THE ISLAND'S SEVEN PEAKS. BOOK YOUR STAY AT ESCAPE.BANYANTREE.COM.

HIGH & DRY

Lightweight and made from soft terry fabric and organic cotton, Købn's beach and bath towels are holiday essentials. They come in nine colourways, including (above, from left) Tamarillo, Ecru and Umber, $110 each. Stock up on your favourites at kobn.com.au.

PHOTOGRAPHY (MATTEAU X RAES ON WATEGOS) **LYNDEN FOSS** (KØBN) **JAZULI BIJOU** (JULY) **AMELIA DOWD** DESIGN & STYLING (MATTEAU X RAES ON WATEGOS) **TAHNEE CARROLL**

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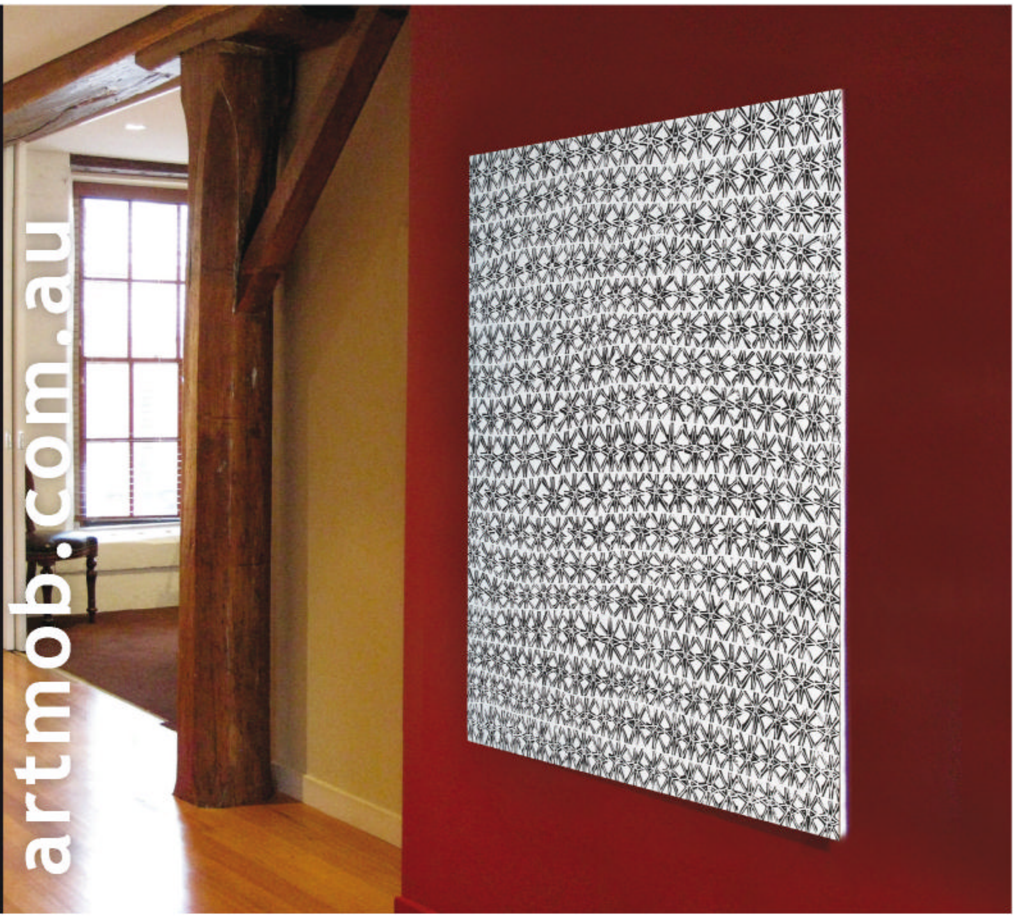

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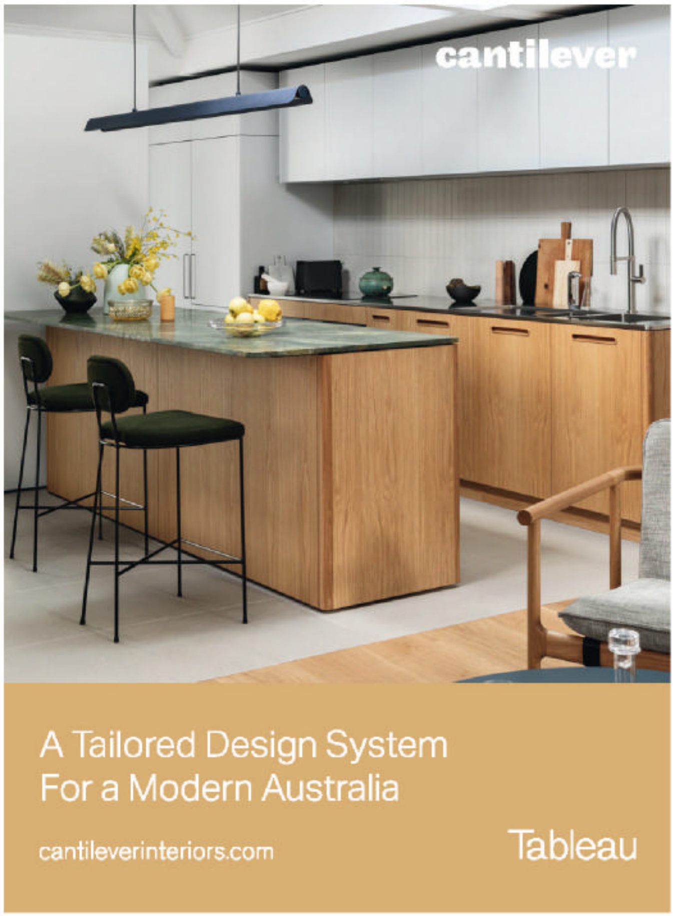

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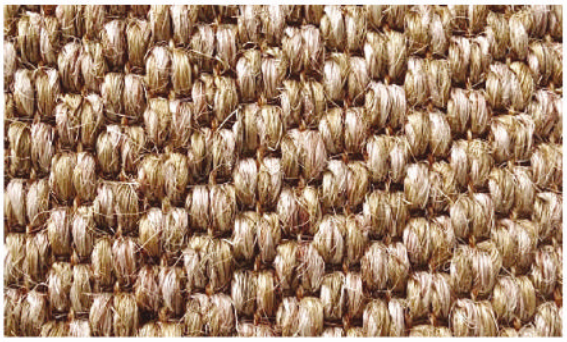

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